





# City of Endless Rain - Chapter 01-08

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# ch1

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## Chapter 1

Tang Shan had a nightmare.

He gasped as he sat up in a rush, the damp smell of air and the clear sounds of rain gradually becoming even more vibrant...

So this was reality.

He looked around. It seemed as if he were in a different world; the room was entirely unfamiliar to him, and yet he was able to identify that this was his room—it was an indescribable and contradictory feeling.

At that moment, the cuckoo clock hanging opposite him began to call eight times, indicating that it was eight o' clock. He was aware that his circadian clock caused him to awaken at eight, so he did wake up at the right time. However, he had no recollection of the existence of the cuckoo clock at all. Things felt completely normal, and yet unusual at the same time.

He looked around again, surveying the area. The room was simply furnished with only a study table and chair, as well as the bed he was on.

The curtains by the bed were tightly shut, allowing only a glimmer of light to pass through. This caused the room to seem dark and humid. There was also a cactus on the windowsill. On the table was a book that lay open with a long, gold plated bookmark in the middle, as if he had been in the midst of reading it.

He got off the bed and walked to the table, picking up the book. Even after briefly looking through it, however, he still had no recollection of the title. He wasn't clear about the contents of the book either. Had he really read it before?

He skimmed through the book, and yet still held no memories of having read it. Eventually, he flipped to the first page and began to read the first chapter.

*I felt the tilting of time under the bright sun along with the formless rain, the sleek wind, and our stillness.*

It was a poetic romance novel. After reading just this line, he could already feel his head starting to hurt.

He thought to himself, "I must have been either possessed or had a screw

loose to have read this book.” The main point, though, was that he was completely unfamiliar with the book. Yet, it was on the study table in his room.

These foreign feelings of unreality made him feel as if he were on the verge of going mad—he needed a breath of fresh air.

He walked to the only door in the room. The gold, round door handle felt unusually cold in his hand.

He opened the door. The hallway was dark and no light was able to enter. The only place that was bright was at the end of the hallway, and he made his way towards it, gradually hearing the sounds of people talking.

From what he could hear, it sounded like two people conversing.

Having left the hallway and gone down the wooden staircase, he found that the furnishings gave off a warm and cozy impression. Most of the furniture was made of wood, and there were also decorative ceramic gnomes half the size of a man. They were randomly arranged in small groups, where each of them smiled brightly at the other.

He scanned the area and finally managed to find the owners of the voices in the kitchen.

It was an open kitchen, so he was able to see the people inside as he got closer. There was a ginger young man sitting by the dining table, plates already empty, and there was also half a glass of juice. The young man was chatting with a person he could not see.

“Excuse me?” Tang Shan greeted loudly before he walked in, and was finally able to see the other person. With that person's back to him, he could only see a head of jet-black, soft long hair.

From the back, the person looked like a tall and long haired female beauty, but he had obviously heard two men speaking.

“You’re finally awake! I almost got Yuanyu to give me your breakfast!” The red-haired young man exclaimed loudly upon seeing him, his facial expression of disappointment obviously exaggerated.

He seemed to know him, but Tang Shan had no memories of him.

“Jake, keep it down. Tang Shan just woke up, don’t be so noisy.”

“You’re saying I’m noisy?! My voice is very nice, please,” Jake retorted in a mumble, afraid to speak out loud.

The man called Yuanyu placed plates of food on the table, giving Tang Shan a brief smile as he pulled a chair out. He gestured for Tang Shan to sit.

Tang Shan was momentarily stunned. It was the long haired man’s fault for being too good looking and seeming so feminine. If he hadn’t heard his voice, he would have assumed the man was a beautiful woman.

“Would you like juice or milk?” Yuanyu asked as he headed to the fridge.

“Um... I want coffee.”

“Coffee is bad for you, how about some milk instead?” As he said this, he took the milk and poured a glass.

Tang Shan did not feel too annoyed despite being rejected. Sitting on the chair pulled out by Yuanyu, he faced Jake and began to watch him, his mind rummaging through whatever memories he had.

Whether it was the beautiful Yuanyu or the red-haired Jake, he could recognize neither of them.

“Someone might get jealous if you stare at me with such a fiery gaze!” Jake proclaimed loudly with a suggestive tone, once he noticed him staring.

Jealous? What was there to be jealous of? Who was jealous? Why would anyone be jealous?

Tang Shan’s mind was filled with a myriad of questions, and finally decided to discuss his situation with them.

“I’m sorry, I really don’t remember this at all, but do I know you two? Do I live here? I don’t remember anything at all.” After he finished speaking, Jake and Li Yuanyu were both frozen, and he couldn’t help but feel embarrassed.

“Again?” That was Jake’s first reaction while he pointed at Tang Shan, shouting at Yuanyu.

From that reaction, it seemed it wasn’t the first time he’d lost his memories.



Li Yuanyu gave a forced smile and placed the milk near Tang Shan's hand, seating himself beside Tang Shan. He was very close, and even reached out to stroke his hair, saying, "It's fine if you forgot, you don't have to feel afraid."

That movement was too natural, too intimate. For some reason, Tang Shan didn't find it strange, as if this was something that was a given.

He didn't know why, but he trusted this man. It didn't seem like the man would do anything to harm him. That man was obviously a stranger, and yet, he trusted him implicitly.

"After you finish your breakfast, I'll bring you around. Who knows, you might remember something," Yuanyu smiled as he spoke.

The man was generous with him and didn't seem to mind the loss of his memories. He even wanted to bring Tang Shan around. He'd made breakfast and been so tolerant—he truly was a great person.

"Thank you. You're a wonderful person," Tang Shan expressed in gratitude.

Jake, who had been drinking juice, spat out a mouthful and began coughing upon hearing that.

"What's wrong with you?" Yuanyu asked, tossing a rag to Jake to clean the table.

"That's because..." Jake tried his best to come up with an excuse, but was

interrupted.

“Watch your mouth,” Yuanyu said coldly.

Jake stopped talking, afraid to make a sound.

Tang Shan watched the two of them contend. He was obviously unable to tell that there was a special meaning behind their words, and eventually landed his gaze on Jake. Jake’s expressions were the richest and also the most complicated with a mixture of indignance and anger as he glared at Yuanyu. Despite that, he still wiped the table obediently.

“Eat up. I’ll take you out later.” Yuanyu reminded him to eat more quickly, his tone gentle and yet also forceful at the same time.

Was it his imagination? It felt like Yuanyu was sidestepping some matters.

Tang Shan watched Yuanyu closely. His gaze was unrestrained, but rather than rejecting it, Yuanyu seemed to be encouraging him, as though he enjoyed being stared at, causing Tang Shan to feel shy.

He looked away and began to eat. It was a fact that Yuanyu’s captivating appearance had made him feel something. However, Yuanyu was a man, and he was a man as well. It would just be too strange.

After chanting “I’m normal” to himself a few times, he swallowed his breakfast and took a huge gulp of milk, quickly taking care of the food in front of him.

Jake made a sound, looking as if he was anticipating a good show.

Tang Shan found it strange and put down his utensils. “Can I ask you something?”

“Go on,” Yuanyu encouraged him kindly.

“What is your relationship with me?” Were they friends? It didn’t really seem that way though, so he was confused.

“Let me make this clear right now—I have no relationship with you. I’m just an outsider who’s here for free breakfast,” Jake immediately piped up.

“I see.” Tang Shan had originally assumed that Jake and him were roommates. He asked again, “Then Mr. Yuan should be the landlord, right? Am I a tenant here?” He’d slept in the room here, so he imagined that he was a tenant. Yuanyu had even gone out of his way to make breakfast, so him being a landlord seemed plausible.

“I guess you could see it that way, so we’ll leave it at that for now.”

Wouldn’t such an ambiguous answer make one feel even more troubled? Besides, what did he mean by “for now”?! If he was a tenant, just say it; if he wasn’t, then just make it clear! Tang Shan felt he was being dragged along by the nose.

“Also, my surname is Li, and my name is Yuanyu. You can call me Yuanyu,” Li Yuanyu corrected him, and then turned towards Jake.

“And you will call me Mr. Li,” he rectified at the same time.

“Hmph! No matter how I look at it, I’ve known you far longer than he has, so why does he get to call you Yuanyu, while I have to call you Mr. Li?” Jake felt indignant and glared towards the innocent Tang Shan.

Tang Shan could almost see his eyes blazing in irritation.

“It’s because Tang Shan is Tang Shan, and you aren’t him,” Li Yuanyu replied.

Another tongue twister-like riddle. Tang Shan didn’t really get it, but Jake seemed to understand and quieted down, not pursuing the matter further. Tang Shan was obviously part of the conversation, but was always out of the loop, leaving him frustrated.

“I’m full now. Thank you for your hospitality, it was delicious. Should I wash the dishes?” Tang Shan changed the topic, planning to wash Jake’s dishes as well.

“Let Jake do it. Come, I’ll bring you outside. This town isn’t exactly big, nor is it small, so it’ll take about a day to finish sightseeing.”

“A whole day?” Tang Shan couldn’t help but exclaim in surprise.

“Since we don’t have any means of transportation nor any gas stations, we only travel using bicycles or by foot,” Jake explained as he cleared the plates.

Li Yuanyu asked Tang Shan, “You don’t mind walking, do you?”

“I don’t mind.”

“Then let’s go.” Li Yuanyu stood up and held his hand, and they left the dining table together.

Because his movements were too natural, Tang Shan wasn’t able to react and retract his hand in time. He could only let Yuanyu do as he liked.

Li Yuanyu took two waterproof coats. The style and colours were quite classic, and it matched well with Li Yuanyu’s tall stature.

Tang Shan, who was shorter, began to worry that he’d look like a child who had stolen an adult’s clothing when he wore it. However, there was no need for such worries. Li Yuanyu gave him a coat that was a size smaller and compatible with his height, as if it had been custom made.

Unsurprisingly, he found his name stitched onto the cuffs—this trench coat was originally his.

He seemed to be able to understand the situation a little better and was no longer as fearful. He followed Li Yuanyu’s footsteps out of the house. The garden was well tended to with the grass smoothened out, and there was even a patch growing edible vegetables. The owner’s dedication could be seen from how tidy and beautiful it was.

“Did you plant the lettuce that I ate just now?” Tang Shan wondered, filled with respect for Li Yuanyu. On the topic of horticulture, he did have some

experience. The place he used to live in—Wait, where did he use to live? Why couldn't he remember it all of a sudden?

"We tended the yard together, but you were determined about there being a vegetable garden. You're usually in charge of cultivating them, so I don't really help," Li Yuanyu answered, sounding a little blue.

In other words, he was filled with admiration for his own work. How funny.

"I'm sorry, I don't remember," Tang Shan apologized, and then asked, "Have I lived here for a long time?"

"It has been some time, though I don't remember how long exactly." Li Yuanyu smiled apologetically, casually avoiding his question.

Tang Shan couldn't probe further and looked away, surveying the surrounding buildings. He suddenly felt as if he'd traveled through time to the 19th or 20<sup>th</sup> century. The architectural features were all over the place, where little cottages were lined next to tall buildings, and bricks next to concrete. He'd never seen anything like that before.

There were no people on the roads, and it was so quiet it seemed as if the place was deserted. Only Li Yuanyu and he walked along the grey tiled sidewalk. The rainy mist was thick, and all he could see in the distance was white.

It was a very strange feeling. Nobody would like such a creepy atmosphere, or at least not Tang Shan.

"Watch your step."

Li Yuanyu warned him, but Tang Shan had already been tripped by a brick and almost had an embarrassing fall. Fortunately, he was pulled back upright, but that only caused him to fall backwards onto Li Yuanyu.

Li Yuanyu chuckled, and Tang Shan, who was against his chest, could feel the tremors from his laughter. He was so embarrassed that he wanted to dig a hole and hide in it.

“Thank you,” Tang Shan said as he shifted himself away from Li Yuanyu’s embrace, standing firmly.

The moment Tang Shan moved away, he heard Li Yuanyu give a sigh of regret. His hand was still on Tang Shan’s waist, and it didn’t seem like he would retract it anytime soon with how he guided him along the sidewalk.

He kept feeling like he was being treated as a lady.

“Mr. Li, I think I can walk properly by myself.” Tang Shan wasn’t accustomed to such behaviour and quickened his footsteps, wanting to rid himself of that hand on his waist.

His intentions were obvious, and once Li Yuanyu realized, he raised his arms as if to surrender, and then apologized. “Sorry, it’s an old habit. Don’t mind me, it’s a subconscious act.”

“So whether it’s a man or a woman, you’ll still act this way?” The question tore out of Tang Shan’s mouth. Even Tang Shan found that his reaction had been too quick, and he himself had no idea why he sounded so angry.

“Of course not,” Li Yuanyu refuted, “I’m only like this towards the person I like.”

Tang Shan stopped walking and gazed at Li Yuanyu. The man’s expression was complicated, looking as if he blamed Tang Shan.

“Mr. Li, when you said ‘like’, did you mean platonically?” Tang Shan wanted to find out. He was actually repelled and also afraid to know, but couldn’t help his curiosity towards this topic. He still had no idea why he was feeling all these strange emotions.

“Don’t call me Mr. Li, it makes me feel really uncomfortable,” Li Yuanyu smiled wryly, correcting the way Tang Shan addressed him instead of answering the question.

Having been corrected twice, Tang Shan wondered in annoyance if that was really important. He wanted to call him Mr. Li, so what was wrong with that? He didn’t feel they were close enough to be on first-name basis.

Wait! Unless...

“Mr. Li, what is your relationship with me? Please be honest.”

“Yuanyu. Please call me Yuanyu,” Li Yuanyu insisted, but still remained tightlipped towards his question.

Tang Shan glared at him for a while, and then decided to give in. “Fine. Yuanyu,



please answer my question.”

“Don’t you already know the answer?” Li Yuanyu answered vaguely, but this only confirmed Tang Shan’s suspicions.

“Impossible! I don’t believe it! I’m not gay!” Tang Shan denied vehemently, seeming on the verge of a breakdown as he backed away.

“Of course you're not. You just like me,” Li Yuanyu reached out, wanting to pull Tang Shan back before he staggered off the sidewalk. However, Tang Shan pushed him away roughly.

“Don’t touch me, you liar! Are you teasing me just because I lost my memories? This joke isn’t funny at all! How could I like a man? I obviously like women, I like making love with women...”

Tang Shan backed further and further away, till he was in the middle of the road. All of a sudden, a horse carriage appeared from the fog, and both the horse and the rider neighed and cried out aloud as they brushed past Tang Shan’s side.

Just an inch closer, and he’d have crashed into the carriage. He was shocked! Why the hell did a carriage show up here?!

Suddenly, he was pulled back onto the sidewalk, and he could only gaze numbly in shock at Li Yuanyu, who was furious.

“Forget it!”

Forget what? Tang Shan was confused.

“I want you to forget everything about having sex with women! You’d better forget it all!” Li Yuanyu’s face was contorted with jealousy, his tone commanding and unreasonable.

He was afraid of Li Yuanyu. “Let me go...” Tang Shan began to struggle, but was unable to win against the other’s strength.

How could Li Yuanyu be so strong and yet look so frail and soft-spoken? Tang Shan was pressed against the ground, his face against a puddle on a tile, the wet soil sticking to his body.

“I’ll let you go if you promise to never bring this up again.”

Li Yuanyu sat on Tang Shan’s back, rendering him unable to breathe. He was unwilling to release Tang Shan even after hearing his cries of pain.

He was truly angry!

“Promise me!”

“Ugh—”

“Tang Shan, don’t push it!”

"I... promise..." Tang Shan was in so much pain that tears started to fall, and he had no choice but to beg for forgiveness.

Only when he heard that did Li Yuanyu release him, helping him up gently. He held Tang Shan, who was still in shock in his arms, patting his back to help him feel better.

Tang Shan looked impassive, but a teardrop suddenly rolled down his cheeks. He didn't want to cry, but he couldn't control himself. It was so, so scary...

"There, there. Don't be afraid, it's fine now," Li Yuanyu comforted him, as if he were a child.

Tang Shan was too afraid to even speak and let Yuanyu pat his back, as well as hold him by the waist.

"Do you still want to walk around? We've only seen about a third of this place," Li Yuanyu asked for his opinion.

Tang Shan was already terrified, and was utterly unwilling to spend more time alone with him. "I want to go back."

Li Yuanyu didn't say much as he supported Tang Shan carefully, helping him step by step. By the time Tang Shan had regained his energy and wanted to walk on his own, he had lost his chance to reject Yuanyu.

When the two of them reached home, Jake was on the way out. The three of them met by the door.

“Goodness, did you fall or crash into a carriage? You look terrible!” Upon seeing Tang Shan’s condition, Jake couldn’t help but voice his surprise.

“You’re already leaving?” Tang Shan’s face was deathly pale. He tried to communicate with Jake through his eyes, telling him “Please don’t go, don’t leave me alone with this guy.”

Jake looked at Tang Shan, and then at Li Yuanyu. After glancing at the two of them, he exclaimed, “Don’t involve me in your lovers' spat, I’m going off now!” As he finished this sentence, he escaped.

Only Li Yuanyu and Tang Shan were left.

Li Yuanyu brought him to the living room and allowed him to settle down. He took off his coat and knelt in front of Tang Shan humbly, both hands on Tang Shan’s knees, a dirty method to restrict his movements.

“Tang Shan, don’t be afraid of me. I really don’t want to hurt you. I love you, you have to believe me.”

“But you hurt me just now.”

“That was an accident... You shouldn’t mention making love with anyone else, whether it’s a man or a woman. I’m really sorry about what happened just now, I know I was being too petty,” Li Yuanyu apologized sincerely.

For Tang Shan, sincerity was of no value to him.

“Where’s the bathroom? I’d like to take a shower.” He changed the topic, unwilling to discuss this further. He had no loving memories with Li Yuanyu, so it didn’t matter how deeply this man was in love with him.

He was not gay and held no feelings towards Li Yuanyu, and he wouldn’t have any feelings for him even in the future! Tang Shan reminded himself multiple times.

He felt that he was completely aware of his feelings, but had forgotten that the first time he’d seen that man, he'd felt something.

“I’ll bring you there.” Li Yuanyu released him quickly, and held his hand as they walked to the bathroom.

The bathroom was on the second floor, so after walking up the stairs and past his room, they reached it.

Li Yuanyu walked inside with him.

Tang Shan glared at him, but Li Yuanyu ignored his glower. He began to introduce the bath products, “The shampoo, bath milk, body soap and the soap. Use the soap for your face. The towels are in the cupboard.”

After he’d finished speaking, he still did not leave.

Tang Shan backed himself into a corner in the bathroom, staring at Li Yuanyu warily. The door was just behind Li Yuanyu, so he had no opportunities to

escape.

Damn it! How could he be so stupid as to suggest taking a shower? Only then did Tang Shan recognize the danger in his actions.

“Can’t we take a shower together? I’m completely soaked.” Li Yuanyu tried to look as pitiful as possible as he begged.

“No!” Tang Shan immediately rejected him without giving it a second thought.

Li Yuanyu looked hurt as he sighed. “I got it. I’ll leave now.”

He’d never expected that Li Yuanyu would be so cooperative. Tang Shan watched him open the door, but before he left, he looked back—he looked extremely sad and sorry.

“I’ll prepare a change of clothes for you.” After he said that, the man really left, closing the door the entire way.

Tang Shan felt as if he had done something unforgivable. However, with his memories gone, how did Li Yuanyu expect him to treat him the way lovers do? In addition, both of them were of the same sex.

Undeniably, Li Yuanyu was a beautiful and outstanding man, but... gay! Gay! Being gay was an utterly new concept to him.

Tang Shan stayed in the bathroom gloomily for a very long time, and then tried to reorganize his feelings. Only then did he take off his heavy and wet clothes.

The moment he saw his naked upper body, however, he was paralyzed.

His body was full of blue and black marks. How passionate must the sex have been to leave so many hickeys behind? Some of those marks were on the verge of disappearing, and they were a faint yellow.

This was definitely not something that could have happened in the span of one or two days. These had been accumulated over an extended period of time.

Tang Shan pulled down his pants in disbelief, examining the astounding amount of hickeys on his body. They were even on places that were too embarrassing to speak of. They had to have been the result of continuous sucking and biting.

This was a well-loved body.

Tang Shan grabbed his shoulders and bent over, unable to stand straight.

His body didn't seem like his at all...

Knocks resounded through the door. Li Yuanyu spoke to him from outside the bathroom. "Tang Shan, I've brought your clothes. Do you want to take it, or should I place it in a basket outside?"

"Put... Put it outside!" Tang Shan shouted, tone panicky.

How should he face Li Yuanyu with this body? It was filled with the evidence of their love!

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Dairytea says: What do you guys think about it so far? I get a "Silent Hill" vibe when reading this chapter~ XD Any speculations??? \*u\*

And I thought it might be fun to add some interesting tidbits about the meaning of our characters' names:

### Tang Shan (唐善)

Tang (唐): to exaggerate, empty, in vain

Shan (善): good (virtuous), benevolent, well-disposed, to be good at, to improve or perfect

### Li Yuan Yu (李元雨)

Li (李): plum, plum tree [A common surname; click [here](#) for a good site that delves into what "plums" symbolize in the Chinese culture]

Yuan (元): primary, first

Yu (雨): rain



# 2

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[City of Endless Rain](#) ch 2

## Chapter 2

After spending an hour or so in the bath, Tang Shan carefully walked out of the bathroom, a towel wrapped around his waist. He was still having mixed feelings about the whole situation, and was thus extremely relieved that Li Yuanyu wasn't waiting on the other side of the door.

He looked around carefully, making sure that Li Yuanyu really wasn't around, and quickly put on the clothes left out for him. After he was dressed, he was suddenly struck with the awareness that he had no idea what he should do.

He stood where he was, unsure.

The sound of rain pelting against the windowpanes began to lower in intensity. Within the house, it was so silent that it was scary, the damp and dark hallway giving off an ominous aura.

The door to his room was half-open, the slightest hint of light peeking through.

He plucked up his courage and went forward to investigate, only to be met with the sight of Li Yuanyu flipping through the artistic romance novel on his table.

Come to think of it, Li Yuanyu was probably the owner of the book.

Tang Shan convinced himself of this fact and decided to leave the room. He didn't feel like having anything to do with the man at the moment, but once he took a step backwards, he bumped into the door behind him, resulting in a large creak.

"Damn it!" Tang Shan cursed silently.

"You're done bathing." Li Yuanyu gave him a kind smile, saying nothing of his clumsiness.

That disarming smile rendered Tang Shan momentarily speechless. He'd never seen any man as beautiful and enchanting as Li Yuanyu was.

Tang Shan came back to himself, gasping at his outrageous thoughts. He

turned away and ducked his head, unwilling to look at Li Yuanyu's face.

Li Yuanyu gave an extremely defeated smile and proceeded to get up from his chair.

Tang Shan furrowed his eyebrows in nervousness, glaring at Li Yuanyu's feet. He could see them gradually coming closer to him, and all he could do was retreat till he was out of the room, his back against the wall of the hallway.

"Am I Medusa?" Li Yuanyu teased him albeit unhappily, in response to his obvious desire to escape. Tang Shan stayed silent.

"Don't be afraid, I just want to go to the bathroom. It's my turn to shower." That said, Li Yuanyu walked off in the direction of the bathroom.

The moment he left, Tang Shan immediately heaved a sigh of relief, sliding onto the floor as he felt his strength leave him.

The rain finally stopped and the sound of rainfall no longer lingered. In exchange, he heard the sound of water trickling in the bathroom nearby. At the thought of Li Yuanyu naked in there, Tang Shan gulped, his heart rate increasing.

He couldn't stay any longer; it was just too dangerous! He couldn't control his own mind, and to even fantasize about Li Yuanyu in the nude...

He didn't want to admit the existence of his desires for Li Yuanyu!

**So he escaped.**

**In a small town where he had no sense of direction and everything was foreign to him, he ran alone, with no purpose and no idea where he could go. All he wanted to do was escape from Li Yuanyu.**

**He ran till he was tired and his stamina completely diminished, to the point that he could no longer move. Only then did he stop.**

**He realized that the scenery around him was completely different, which indicated he'd run outside of the places that Li Yuanyu had brought him to-He was now completely lost.**

**He surveyed the area carefully. At one end was a place that seemed like a plaza or square, while there was a stone staircase on the other end. He was at the bottom of the staircase, which made him curious about the scenery above.**

**Just as he was about to climb up, he was stopped.**

**"Mr Tang Shan! What a coincidence to meet you here!"**

**A lady wearing the uniform of a policewoman on patrol advanced towards him, adjusting her ill-fitted pants as she walked. Her smile was extremely bright, as if she was familiar with him.**

**"You know me?"**

**The policewoman, was stunned for a moment, and asked confusedly, "Of**

course I know you, is there anyone in this town who doesn't? What's wrong with you? Why would you ask me something like that?"

"Why is it natural for everyone in this town to know me?" Tang Shan retorted.

"You're Mr Li's partner, everyone obviously knows you. Ah... Oh no, don't tell me you lost your memories again?" The policewoman began to answer, before she reacted. Her voice was incredibly piercing with her high energy and register.

Tang Shan could feel his ears throb in pain and raised his arm to cover one of them. He moved one step backwards, trying to put some distance between them.

"Why isn't Mr Li with you?" The policewoman peered behind Tang Shan but saw no one there.

"When you say Mr Li, do you mean Li Yuanyu?"

"Of course, who else would it be? That's strange, why would Mr Li let you go around alone? That doesn't make sense." The policewoman found it strange.

Tang Shan didn't want to explain further. He went on to ask, "Is Mr Li a very famous person?"

The policewoman began to laugh out loud, as if she'd heard something incredulous.

**Tang Shan was unbelievably embarrassed. Was this a very stupid question?**

**She ceased her exaggerated laughter before answering, "Mr Li is the manager of this place. He's something like the mayor here."**

**"He's something like the mayor here? So he's not really the mayor?"**

**"He can't really be considered the mayor, since we don't belong to the government. To be strict about this, Mr Li would be something like the king here. Your partner is an extremely outstanding individual." The policewoman shook her head as she sighed, "If I were ten years younger, I'd definitely use all available methods to try and climb into Mr Li's bed."**

**"Go on and climb, I definitely won't mind or even stop you," Tang Shan thought inwardly. However, he had no guts to actually say such disrespectful words out loud.**

**"Are you free now? I wanted to look around, so do you think you could accompany me?" Tang Shan suggested.**

**"I can't do that, I have to continue patrolling later. I can find someone in this town who's incredibly free to accompany you, though." The policewoman immediately spoke into her walkie-talkie, "Anyone in Area 510, please tell Jake to come to 603, Mr Tang Shan is here."**

**Moments later, Jake appeared looking annoyed, complaining at the policewoman as soon as he arrived.**

**"What do you want me for? I want to sleep," he grumbled, before glaring at Tang Shan.**

**The policewoman knocked his head good-naturedly. "You! Be more courteous with Mr Tang Shan!"**

**"What are you doing, it hurts!" Jake cradled his head as he shouted, quickly hiding behind Tang Shan's back and using him as a shield.**

**"Don't think I can't do anything if you hide behind Mr Tang Shan!"**

**"What do you want, you monster!"**

**"You!" The policewoman held up her baton as she advanced towards Tang Shan, aiming for Jake.**

**The innocent Tang Shan was stuck in between these two, even getting his clothes tugged around by Jake.**

**Once the policewoman was done venting her anger, she patted Tang Shan on the back, "I'm sorry you had to see such a scene. Jake's extremely familiar with everything in this town, so ask him anything you want to know. I need to go back and patrol now."**

**Jake only released Tang Shan after he made sure she was gone. He found that a little section of Tang Shan's shirt had gone wrinkly from his tight grip previously, and no matter what he did, the shirt would not return to its previous state. He cursed, trying his best to smooth out the shirt that was now crumpled.**

**"Shit, I'm finished. Li Yuanyu's going to kill me."**

**Tang Shan turned around. From his angle, all he could see was half of Jake's head.**

**"Why didn't you just stay at home like a good boy? You even came outside! Does Li Yuanyu know you came out here?" Jake eventually gave up and got angry, uncaring about the state of the shirt.**

**Tang Shan grew silent.**

**Upon noticing the mood wasn't quite right, Jake guessed, "You didn't tell him, did you?"**

**Tang Shan turned, seemingly having difficulty expressing his thoughts.**

**"Ugh, you're so troublesome!" Jake rolled his eyes and took his phone out, immediately dialing.**

**Tang Shan immediately gripped his arm and snatched his phone away, his movements quick and smooth as he disconnected the call.**

**"What are you doing?"**

**"Please don't contact him."**



**"What?! Do you want to get me killed?" Jake made a weird noise, trying to get his phone back. Tang Shan just raised his arm higher, and due to the height difference, Jake couldn't reach even if he stretched for it.**

**"You bastard, to think you could be so despicable!" Jake yelled as he jumped, though he still couldn't even touch his phone.**

**At this moment, the phone began to ring. Tang Shan took a look at it-It was Li Yuanyu calling back. He turned around and quickly removed the battery from the phone.**

**"Here's your phone. As for the battery... I'll keep it for now." He returned the phone to Jake and placed the battery in his pocket. While he did feel a little sorry for Jake, he tried to look as nonchalant as possible.**

**"You actually used my phone and hung up on Li Yuanyu's calls?! I'm dead, I'm really dead this time!" Jake was on the verge of tears as he snatched his phone back. The screen was obviously black as the battery was gone, and he immediately began to shout in exasperation.**

**"Bring me around then, where does this road go to?" Tang Shan coerced him to leave, and then turned back to watch Jake after walking a distance.**

**Jake was still on the same spot, glaring at him angrily. He didn't seem to have any plans of moving.**

**"Don't think everything will go your way." Jake spat out resentfully.**

**"I lost my memories, do you think anything's going my way?" Tang Shan**

retorted.

Jake was speechless, but his expression was still terrible.

"Or you can just let me wander around alone, and when I completely lose my way, things will get even worse for you." Tang Shan stalked off after speaking, hoping Jake would follow.

Not long after, Jake really went after him, mumbling under his breath, "Damn it, you're obviously taking advantage of me. You're the same before and after you lose your memories, you selfish monster!"

Tang Shan ignored his comments and continued climbing to the top of the staircase. At such a high position, he could see a completely different scenery. The town was situated in a basin, which was surrounded by mountains. He wasn't in the middle of the town, but at one of the corners. The styles of the architecture in the center were incredibly bizarre. They were arranged in a way so strange that it seemed to create a maze.

Suddenly, a strong gust of wind blew and a thick layer of fog covered the scenery. The town under the fog was gloomy, and if one were to enter recklessly, one would definitely get lost.

"This fog really has good timing. I can't see anything anymore, so can we go back now?" Jake exclaimed, taking advantage of this misfortune to force him to return.

"At least I got to see the outside." Tang Shan was unwilling to give up here, but he voluntarily walked down the stairs.

**Jake cursed at him behind his back, but still followed.**

**As he crossed the road, Tang Shan turned back and told Jake, "Careful of the carriages. "**

**"I don't need your concern, I can take care of myself." Jake rolled his eyes in answer, "No matter what, I'm still better than someone who loses his memories so frequently."**

**"I guess so, I was almost run over by a carriage just now." Tang Shan crossed the road safely and waited for Jake to follow, and then continued to move forward. On the way, he asked Jake questions about the city, such as why the architectural styles were so strange and lacked thought. He also asked about the strange appearances of horse carriages.**

**Jake could only stutter out his replies, unable to give a definite answer.**

**"It's always been like this ever since I came here. It's better to ask Li Yuanyu these things." In the end, he pushed all the questions to Li Yuanyu.**

**Tang Shan wasn't able to get any of the answers he wanted, and could only admire the surrounding scenery earnestly.**

**Once they passed by a tunnel, he halted his footsteps. The tunnel was so dark that he couldn't see its end, as if it wanted to suck someone into its depths.**

**"Let's go! Don't stand in the middle, do you want to die from getting run over?" Jake hassled, pulling aside Tang Shan, who was unwilling to leave.**

**However, Tang Shan was unable to divert his gaze and stared into the darkness of the tunnel. He suddenly had a strange feeling-No vehicles would enter this tunnel, and he definitely had to enter it.**

**"Hey! What are you doing?" Jake saw through his thoughts and quickly grabbed ahold of him, stopping him from stepping foot into the tunnel.**

**"I need to go to the other end," Tang Shan made his stand firm.**

**"Are you crazy? Are you trying to commit suicide or what?"**

**"It'll be fine, I know there aren't any vehicles that will pass through here. I have a feeling about this." After saying his piece, Tang Shan felt his argument was much too weak. Things like 'feelings' couldn't really be relied on...**

**But he believed in himself!**

**"Stop joking, if I really let you go in and anything happens to you, what am I going to tell Li Yuanyu?"**

**"Just believe in me, Jake! I'm telling the truth!"**

**"Dude, stop messing around!" Jake still didn't believe him and kept pulling him, but was immediately startled by his next actions. "Hey! What are you doing?"**

**Tang Shan dove his hand into the pocket of Jake's pants, took out his phone and inserted the battery.**

**"I'm sorry, lend this to me for a while. I need the light from your phone." He walked into the tunnel after speaking.**

**"Hey! Are you really going in? Hey! Heyyy!" Jake couldn't stop him and watched as Tang Shan went straight for the tunnel. Even while knowing this was a bad idea, he followed and recklessly pounced on Tang Shan.**

**Tang Shan fell, and the phone in his hand fell out of his grasp.**

**"Jake, what are you doing?!"**

**"I'm stopping you!" Jake stated matter-of-factly as he started searching for his fallen phone.**

**Tang Shan figured out Jake's intentions and quickly moved towards the location of the phone. It was right in front of them and the light gradually became weaker, till the tunnel was engulfed in darkness again.**

**At this moment, Tang Shan found that there seemed to be an object near the phone. It was emitting a feeble gold colour, illuminated by the faint light emanating from the phone. He immediately sat up and pushed Jake away.**

**"Whoa! What are you doing!" Jake exclaimed in shock, thinking Tang Shan was aiming to retrieve the phone. He was surprised to see Tang Shan heading**

in another direction and wondered, "What are you doing?"

"There's something here." Tang Shan fumbled through the darkness and picked it up, finding that it was a chain upon which hung something he couldn't see.

Jake immediately climbed up and grabbed his arm, forcing him to walk towards the exit of the tunnel. "Don't pick up anything that isn't yours!"

Tang Shan was pushed out of the tunnel and could only decipher what was in his hands once he had light. He saw that it was a golden locket-the sort where people could put photographs in it, though it was now bent and twisted out of shape.

Strangely enough, he had the feeling that it belonged to him.

"This is mine," Tang Shan told Jake, and then tried to open the locket. He wanted to find out if there was any photograph inside, and if so, who it would be of.

The locket was so badly bent that no matter how much strength he exerted, the locket still stayed tightly closed like the mouth of a clam. No matter what he did, it wouldn't open.

"Stop playing around. If you have the time to mess around with this thing, you should just go back."

"Stop bothering me, I almost got it open," Tang Shan waved his hands to drive Jake away.

**"Oi! You think you can chase me away like a fly?" Jake called out a few times, but seeing how nothing would dissuade him, he eventually gave up.**

**Tang Shan managed to open a tiny slit and he could somehow see that there was a picture of a dark, long-haired person inside. He couldn't tell who it was, but the black and long hair reminded him of a person.**

**"Found you."**

**That person's voice suddenly sounded from behind him, scaring Tang Shan to the point that he almost lost hold of the locket.**

**A strong gust of wind blew, and that person's hair began to fly, brushing past his neck, shoulders and face. He was standing so closely to Tang Shan to the point that he could hear the sound of his breaths clearly.**

**Li Yuanyu stood by Tang Shan's side, seemingly seething with anger. He grabbed him by the arm, rendering Tang Shan unable to escape.**

**"Why did you leave the house without saying anything? Why did you run away while I was taking a bath?" Li Yuanyu asked forcefully.**

**Tang Shan was too afraid to answer.**

**Upon noticing the locket in his hands, Li Yuanyu reached out and grabbed it, appraising it for a while.**

**"Where did you find this?" Li Yuanyu's voice got even deeper, a clear indication that he was on the verge of blowing up. His gaze dropped from the silent Tang Shan to Jake.**

**"He picked it up in the tunnel. It's none of my business! I tried to stop him, but he was really stubborn about entering." Jake quickly separated himself from the equation, fearing he'd be torn apart by him so quickly that he wouldn't even know what happened.**

**"This is mine." Tang Shan was extremely certain and pulled on the other end of the locket, not allowing Li Yuanyu to take it.**

**"I know it's yours, I gave it to you." Li Yuanyu let go of the locket and snorted coldly. "You remember that this locket is yours, but forget that I had a part in it too."**

**It couldn't be helped if he couldn't remember, he was feeling quite panicked as well! Tang Shan glared at him and kept it in his pocket. He suddenly thought of the face in the photo and asked, "Have you seen the photograph inside before?"**

**"Of course, you put my photo in there." Li Yuanyu chased Jake away and linked arms with Tang Shan as they walked back home.**

**"Then why would I leave it in a tunnel?" Tang Shan pressed on.**

**"We had a fight one day. You left home and I never saw that locket again. I believe you threw it away then."**



**Tang Shan found it weird-Who would throw things away just because of a fight? He didn't think he was so easily influenced by his emotions, so such an action seemed strange to him.**

**Tang Shan walked under the coercion of Li Yuanyu for a while when he suddenly stopped, unwilling to move forward. "Why did you lie to me?" he turned and questioned.**

**"I didn't," Li Yuanyu denied.**

**"It's not like me to throw someone's gift away. At most, I'd keep it somewhere. I'm not the kind of person you made me out to be." Tang Shan's gaze was strong, certain that Li Yuanyu was lying.**

**"You were probably drunk then."**

**He lied again! Tang Shan obviously didn't drink!**

**Tang Shan could feel himself getting mad. Why lie to him, time and again?**

**"Is it so fun to lie to me?"**

**The moment those words left his mouth, Tang Shan was taken aback-He seemed to have said those words before?**

**He tried to think back. It seemed to have been in Li Yuanyu's house, and Li Yuanyu had a worried and guilty expression while he looked at him... Just thinking back to that scene made him lose hold of his emotions.**

**Just what had happened?**

**"Why did we fight that day?" he asked.**

**"I forgot, it probably wasn't anything important," Li Yuanyu answered.**

**If it wasn't important, would he be so angry as to throw that locket in a tunnel? Tang Shan felt his heart sink at the knowledge that he couldn't trust the man at all.**

**"Don't just stand there, we should head back soon," Li Yuanyu rushed him, exerting force on the arm he was holding.**

**"I don't want to go back with you." Tang Shan shrugged off his hands and retreated backwards, "I can't stay with a person who keeps lying to me. I don't trust you."**

**"If you don't come back to my place, where else can you go?" Li Yuanyu questioned, sure he had nowhere else to go.**

**"I can go to the police station and get help from them."**

**"Don't bother trying, the police would only send you back to my place. Everyone knows you're mine. Who would dare to house you?"**

**"I would rather sleep on the streets..." Tang Shan said spitefully, unwilling to admit defeat. He knew he could never win against Li Yuanyu, but he still didn't**

want to give up so easily.

Li Yuanyu was aware that Tang Shan wasn't the type to joke around. Tang Shan truly felt that sleeping in the streets was better than returning home, seeing how he'd lost all trust in him.

Li Yuanyu laughed, the sound low and light, as if it were a type of release.

Tang Shan trembled.

"If that's the case, then I'm not going to try to be a gentleman anymore. Come with me, or I'll force you to." Li Yuanyu's expression suddenly changed, all pretense of kindness and friendliness gone. His gaze was sharp and fierce, as if he'd become a different person altogether.

Was this his true personality? Tang Shan was shocked at the change in Li Yuanyu. From all the movement just now, he'd already hit the wall behind him.

"You..." Tang Shan turned to the back to see if he had any room to further retreat, only to find there was none left. At the moment he wanted to look forward, he suddenly felt some pain in his neck.

His vision immediately went black, and he lost consciousness.

He awoke on a soft bed, met with the sight of the same white ceiling. He'd been awoken by the cuckoo clock, which had rung eleven times. It was eleven o' clock. The windows were covered and no light could enter. He couldn't see the sky, but he guessed that it was probably night.

At the next moment, he heard the sound of a book being closed.

He turned to the sight of Li Yuanyu sitting at his study table, reading that romance novel. Just as he thought, it wasn't his but Li Yuanyu's.

"Good evening. Do you want any dinner? I can prepare some for you." Li Yuanyu gave him a gentle smile. He looked normal, the conversation light and natural, which made this scene even more unusual.

Tang Shan thought for a moment and sat up to face Li Yuanyu. He observed him for quite a while.

"What's wrong?" Li Yuanyu asked kindly as he smiled, meeting his appraising gaze in confusion.

Tang Shan didn't speak, and then gradually ducked his head, unwilling to look at him. Not long after, he heard Li Yuanyu sigh.

"I'm going downstairs to prepare dinner. You-Just wash up." Li Yuanyu stood up as he instructed, and then began to walk.

Tang Shan stared at the lines on the floor tiles, watching as Li Yuanyu's feet approached and then stopped before him, unmoving for a long time.

What did he want? Tang Shan wondered worriedly.

He saw the weak shadow on the floor raise its arm, aiming at him. At that

moment, his entire body stiffened, and Li Yuanyu's arm stayed in mid-air. His shadow had already touched Tang Shan's shadow-body, but in reality, there was no contact.

He tensed, unsure of whether Li Yuanyu would touch him-would he hit him or touch him? Tang Shan's heart seemed to stop in uncertainty.

In the end, Li Yuanyu retracted his arm without a word nor a sigh. He took a step backwards and left the room, giving him space.

Tang Shan gave a huge sigh of relief and the tension in his body dissipated. He supported his head as he reflected.

He hated himself. Why was he so weak? He should have gotten everything straight with Li Yuanyu and not chosen the path of escape.

But he'd still chosen escape because he couldn't defy his instincts; because he was afraid.

He hated this side of himself.

He sat there loathing himself for a long time, before leaving the bed and going to the bathroom to wash up. From the window in the bathroom, he could see that it was dark and gloomy outside, and he could occasionally hear the sound of wind blowing.

Tang Shan took a cold bath, forcing himself awake. It took less than five minutes. He gave a deep sigh in front of the mirror, unsure of what he was doing. The whole situation was a mess.

**After all his trouble the entire day, the only thing he gained was that locket.**

**At the mention of the locket, he felt for it in his pocket, but it was missing!**

**His first reaction was to think that Li Yuanyu had taken it away! He opened the door in a panic, wanting to interrogate Li Yuanyu. He didn't expect that the moment he opened the door, Li Yuanyu would be standing outside.**

**Tang Shan jumped in surprise and retreated, almost falling at the movement.**

**"Why are you standing outside?!" he questioned furiously, and for some reason, Tang Shan felt guilty.**

**"I was going to prepare food, but I got worried that you'd run away again. After further thought, I think it's better if I watch you." Li Yuanyu's smile receded, and all that was left was a gloomy expression.**

**"You want to take away my privacy on top of controlling my freedom?"**

**"There are no secrets between us."**

**Then why did you lie to me?**

**Tang Shan furrowed his eyebrows. Li Yuanyu's words were just too absurd. However, Li Yuanyu was so confident of himself that it was difficult to find fault with him in spite of his illogical reasoning.**

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ayszhang says: You are probably wondering why I'm here instead of Ying. Well, you can ask her yourselves in the comments XD

Anyways, I am teaming up with her to deliver translations every week, alternating between *Till Death Do Us Part* and *City of Endless Rain*. See how much we love you <3

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# 3

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## Chapter 3

Tang Shan sat by the dining table with bacon, fries and steamed eggs in front of him. He'd been pushed and dragged to the table, and Li Yuanyu had nonchalantly urged him to eat, even pouring a glass of milk for him.

"You'll become more emotionally stable once you replenish the calcium in your body," Li Yuanyu smiled gently as he pushed the glass of milk to him.

Tang Shan rolled his eyes.

"You took my locket away, didn't you?" he immediately accused.



**"What do you mean? Didn't you put it away?" Li Yuanyu feigned innocence, denying his role in this.**

**"I put it in my pocket but it disappeared!"**

**"So you suspect me?"**

**"If it wasn't you, who else could it be?"**

**Li Yuanyu's face fell. It looked as if he was on the verge of losing his temper, but he kept his cool and smiled as he maneuvered the plate till it was in front of Tang Shan. "Eat up. It isn't raining today, so I'll show you around."**

**"I don't-" Tang Shan didn't even get a chance to reject him before a ringtone interrupted him.**

**Li Yuanyu left the kitchen to answer it. Tang Shan followed him with his gaze, watching the door for a long time. Eventually, he couldn't contain his curiosity and carefully followed in his footsteps and peeked at him.**

**Li Yuanyu sounded annoyed, as if he was quarrelling with the other party.**

**"You actually need me to handle such trivial matters? Just handle it yourselves!"**

**The other party said something, causing Li Yuanyu to fall silent for a long time.**

**"I understand. I'll make a trip there." He hung up after he answered.**

**Li Yuanyu walked towards the kitchen, and Tang Shan immediately rushed back to his seat. He held his fork and started to push the bacon around on his plate, trying to pretend he hadn't just eavesdropped on that conversation. However, the harder he tried, the more obvious he was.**

**Li Yuanyu leaned against the door, his arms tucked in front of his chest. Seeing Tang Shan's unnatural actions-his head bent while he ate voraciously, deliberately not looking at him-it was obvious he was feeling guilty.**

**"You were listening." It wasn't a question, but a statement.**

**Tang Shan tensed.**

**"I need to go out for a bit, so watch the house for me, alright? " Li Yuanyu sounded forceful as he spoke, his gaze unwavering on Tang Shan.**

**Tang Shan didn't raise his head nor attempt to look at him. He had no reaction to Li Yuanyu's words.**

**Li Yuanyu lingered for a moment longer, his thoughts unreadable. It didn't seem like he had any intentions of coming closer, and he left the kitchen silently.**

**Tang Shan listened closely, hoping for Li Yuanyu to leave as quickly as possible. Not long after, he heard something metallic, and then the sound of**

the door closing.

The moment the door shut, he immediately ran towards the front door. He took a look outside and ascertained that the man had really left, and then reached for the handle and turned it-

"Clunk!" The door handle wouldn't budge.

Tang Shan was momentarily stunned, before he reacted and fervently turned the handle, but once it reached a certain angle, the handle couldn't turn.

The door was locked! He turned to find any other possible exits, running up the steps two at a time, quickly rushing to his room. That was the only room that he knew had a big window.

He put the cactus elsewhere and pulled the curtains apart.

He was stunned by the sight before him. The window had been sealed with wooden boards. It had been sealed so well that no light could pass through.

Tang Shan didn't give up and searched through the other rooms, thinking that only his window had been sealed shut. However, after his search through all the rooms, he found that only small ventilation shafts had been left unsealed.

Li Yuanyu had locked him inside the house, and there was no way out.

Tang Shan cried out as he broke down, having no other way to express his

feelings. Once he got tired of yelling, he collapsed on the ground.

He watched the ceiling dazedly, unable to understand why Li Yuanyu was so obsessed with him, to the point of limiting his personal freedom.

If he had a chance to escape from here, he'd definitely sue Li Yuanyu to his last penny and make him regret his actions! Tang Shan calmed down after this certain thought.

He suddenly noticed that the markings on the wooden ceiling were slightly strange. There was a square section that was a little different from the rest. Tang Shan stood up and studied it for a long time, before deciding to investigate further.

He remembered there was a storage room in this building, where he'd seen a broom, mop, and the like. Immediately, he rushed to take one of the items and returned to the room, knocking at the wood with a strange marking.

There was a hollow sound, and the wood actually shifted upon impact!

Tang Shan shifted the wood to the side and brought a chair. He then stepped onto it to see what was up there.

There was an attic with a glass window on the ceiling that had been sealed shut, though it still allowed a stream of moonlight to shine through. He could just barely see his surroundings with that small amount of light.

There was a table, two chairs, as well as other furniture that had been covered with a cloth. From the shapes, he could tell that there was a bed, a

sofa, an easel, another table, a candle stand-there were all sorts of items.

There were also other things on the table, but since they were too far away, he couldn't quite make out what they were.

Tang Shan gathered his strength and finally managed to climb into the attic. He shook off the dust that had gathered on his sleeves, not minding when he didn't manage to remove all of it.

He walked over to the table situated under the window, moonlight shining onto its surface.

There were glass bottles full of paper stars and even unused strips of paper left on the table. He seemed to have some memories of that...

—

"You will be granted one wish if you fold a thousand stars," Li Yuanyu stated. He'd already folded two glass bottles full of stars. There were still some paper strips in his hands, and he gave some to Tang Shan.

Tang Shan found his words absurd and teased him about his belief in fairytales.

"Why are you laughing so hard? Don't treat it as a joke, Mary folded the stars and wished to leave the city. Her dream managed to come true not long after," Li Yuanyu defended himself.

**"Really?!" Tang Shan felt a glimmer of hope after hearing that.**

**"Really," Li Yuanyu answered steadily.**

**"Then I want to fold a thousand stars and make a wish to leave the city. Yeah, that, or I should make a wish to return home," Tang Shan mused, pulling aside the chair next to Li Yuanyu, and he started folding the stars as well.**

**Li Yuanyu's movements momentarily halted.**

**"If you leave, what's going to happen to me?" From his tone, it was obvious that he was none too happy about it.**

**"I'll come back. I can't bear to be away from you," Tang Shan laughed, leaning forward to give him a quick, light kiss, and then pulling back with a grin that seemed to imply he'd done something naughty.**

**"If you really can't bear to part with me, then just don't go," Li Yuanyu sighed, sounding like a spoilt child.**

**—**

**Oh god! Yes, that had happened. He remembered!**

**Tang Shan was so shocked that he retreated. His movements were so big that he knocked into the easel beside him, and he fell on top of it with a "crash". Dust flew around him as he coughed.**

**A corner of the canvas revealed itself, and Tang Shan somehow felt that this**

reminded him of his own room.

He swept the white cloth aside and was greeted with the sight of a painting of a nude body spread out on the bed, grinning seductively at the artist. There was the cuckoo clock on the wall, the books on the table, the cactus on the windowsill, and the figure on the bed-him.

He was stunned, unable to get ahold of himself for a long time.

Memories began to flow, and he remembered the situation at the time...

—

Li Yuanyu had brought the easel over, saying that he wanted to draw Tang Shan. He'd told Tang Shan to continue sleeping.

Tang Shan couldn't sleep no matter what he tried. He was much too nervous and even used a pillow to attack Li Yuanyu, though it was of no use.

Tang Shan burrowed his face into the blanket, unwilling to let anyone see him. If it weren't for such an intense session last night, he'd definitely escape elsewhere to a place where Li Yuanyu couldn't see, and much less draw him.

"I'll make Borscht for you to drink later if you stop moving."

"I'll hold you to that." He raised his head from the blanket, easily bribed by the promise of Borscht.

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He remembered everything, even the expression on Li Yuanyu's face then. Yes, without a doubt, they had been in love.

"Tang Shan? Tang Shan! Are you up there?" Li Yuanyu's voice travelled from below. He then stepped on the chair and poked his head in, discovering Tang Shan in the attic.

Tang Shan sat in a corner, hugging his knees. He was glassy-eyed and didn't seem to have much of a reaction. He was like a statue, unmoving.

Li Yuanyu seemed to notice something, silently watching Tang Shan. He didn't like the lifeless look in Tang Shan's eyes.

"It's really dusty up there... Don't stay there for too long, come down first," Li Yuanyu gestured at him.

"Tell me, how did we start dating?" Tang Shan questioned, voice steady and unemotional.

"It just happened..." Li Yuanyu sighed and held out his arm. "Come down, let's not discuss this up here. I'll tell you everything."

Tang Shan didn't move.

"Should I go up there and bring you down?" Li Yuanyu changed his methods of coercion to one more forceful, moving as if he was about to climb up.



**Tang Shan panicked, staring at him in shock.**

**No! He didn't want to stay here with that man, in a place filled with items full of memories of their past.**

**"I-I'll go down!"**

**Li Yuanyu halted his movements and watched Tang Shan for a while longer. He answered with an "all right" and retreated.**

**Tang Shan got up slowly, his movements difficult. The shock of knowing he was a homosexual was too much for him. Even though he had a few friends who were gay, he couldn't believe he was one of them.**

**"Be careful," Li Yuanyu looked up at him.**

**Tang Shan placed both hands on the floorboard, letting his feet go down first. Unexpectedly, one of his hands slipped and he fell to the ground-but luckily for him, Li Yuanyu managed to catch him in time, saving him from imminent danger.**

**Li Yuanyu's hold on him was extremely familiar. While his mind had forgotten, his body still remembered this feeling.**

**The moment he felt the man hold him, Tang Shan almost cried, feeling so emotional that his consciousness began to fade.**

**"Breathe, damn it! Breathe!" Li Yuanyu hit Tang Shan's face repeatedly, sounding extremely frantic, as if something terrible was happening.**

**From Tang Shan's perspective, he'd only blanked out for a second, but in reality he'd fainted for about a minute. He'd lost consciousness and stopped breathing.**

**Tang Shan opened his eyes, feeling quite confused. Seeing Li Yuanyu's face filled with concern, he said, "Yuanyu, you look terrible."**

**Li Yuanyu stiffened at his words, watching him with shock.**

**Tang Shan, who had awoken, gradually came back to himself. Only then did he realise he'd said something strange.**

**"How much do you remember?" Li Yuanyu asked.**

**"Not much. I don't really know either," Tang Shan shook his head. He found himself lying on the floor and slowly sat up. Thinking for a moment longer, he added, "I think we were in love."**

**"Were?" Li Yuanyu repeated unhappily at his choice of words, "We're not done yet, don't use past tense."**

**But it was over for him. He had no feelings for Li Yuanyu whatsoever, or at least they were not romantic. Tang Shan didn't want to argue with him about this. Based on past experiences, these discussions always ended up unresolved.**

**"You haven't told me what happened between us."**

**"You're persistent," Li Yuanyu sighed and stood up, extending an arm as he planned to help Tang Shan up.**

**"It's fine, thank you. I can get up by myself," Tang Shan refused him. Unexpectedly, Li Yuanyu grabbed him by the arm, causing Tang Shan's heart to skip a beat in surprise.**

**Li Yuanyu pulled him up and immediately let him go, patting away the dust that had gathered on Tang Shan's clothes. He sighed again.**

**"Let's talk in the kitchen. I'll brew some tea so we can drink while we talk." He then left the room, leaving Tang Shan alone.**

**Tang Shan stood frozen at the spot, trying to calm himself down. He had some reservations and suddenly had no desire to know more about their story- he was afraid he wouldn't be able to handle it.**

**"Tang Shan?"**

**Li Yuanyu was already done brewing the tea, and seeing that he wasn't coming down, called for him loudly from downstairs.**

**"I-I'm coming," Tang Shan got himself to focus and made his way out of the room and down the stairs.**

Li Yuanyu's signature was chamomile and linden tea, which was served in a handleless cup. It was useful in soothing nerves. Tang Shan was familiar with its aroma, and he stared at the tea and chamomile in the cup, feeling a little dazed.

Li Yuanyu was telling him about their meeting and how they came to fall in love.

"When you first moved to the city, you were unfamiliar with everything. The landlord who'd promised to rent you a room gave it to someone else who had moved in earlier, so you were homeless. Patrol officers later found you on the streets and thought you looked suspicious, so they took you back to the station for questioning. After they found out your situation, they brought you to me.

"You may already know this, but I'm in charge of this city. Anything that the police can't handle will be passed on to me, so I provided you with accommodation. You moved in, and so we started to live together."

Tang Shan was stunned, glancing at him for a second, and then pointed out the problem, "Live together?!"

"We weren't like that in the beginning, but it eventually turned out like that." Li Yuanyu gave an embarrassed smile, and then continued, "I don't deny that I fell in love with you at first sight, and letting you move in wasn't entirely out of the goodness of my heart."

As he spoke, all of his actions, his words, his expressions, were that of strong adoration and fondness, causing Tang Shan to feel stressed. He ducked his head and picked up the silver spoon on the tray, stirring the tea despite the fact that no sugar had been added.

**"Did I move here for work?" Tang Shan felt that this was the most reasonable explanation. "What was my job?"**

**"You're my lover, you don't need to work," Li Yuanyu stated matter-of-factly, not finding it strange in any way.**

**Tang Shan, who had been drinking his tea, almost spat a mouthful onto Li Yuanyu's face at his words.**

**Li Yuanyu gave him a look of concern and extended his arm, wanting to thump him on the back. Tang Shan rejected him weakly.**

**"I'm fine, thank you."**

**Li Yuanyu gave him a smile and retracted his hand, his expression gloomy.**

**"I'm sorry, but have I really been letting you take care of me like some kept woman?" Tang Shan was extremely concerned about this, looking uncomfortable.**

**So he was alright with being someone's kept woman? No! He didn't think he was someone with so little dignity.**

**Li Yuanyu sighed silently, before he explained further, "You had a job, though I don't really know the details. It's probably got something to do with civil service. After you got fired, you couldn't find a new job and I tried to reassure you that it was okay, but you were insistent that a man should have a**

job. There weren't any in the city though, so you wanted to leave to find one. It was just your luck that it'd been raining badly then so you couldn't leave, and the matter was left like that."

Tang Shan nodded, feeling more at ease. Remembering the scene where they were folding paper stars, he asked, "Where was my hometown? How long have I been here for? How long has it been since I last went back?"

"You lived in City A, though I don't know the exact address. You've been here for more than a year. You did mention wanting to go back a few times, but the weather here was just too terrible."

Hearing Li Yuanyu mention problems with the weather, Tang Shan was unconvinced, "I know it's been raining these days, but it isn't so bad that I can't leave. Why don't I start packing- "

Even before he'd finished his words, a lightning bolt struck, followed by the sound of someone loudly yelling, "The tree! The tree is going to fall!"

Tang Shan's attention was immediately diverted, but he couldn't find a window he could see the outside through. In the end, he settled on watching Li Yuanyu.

Li Yuanyu didn't seem to have any reaction to the scene outside. He met Tang Shan's gaze without batting an eyelid, and steadily said, "I think it's better if you wait till the weather gets better. The wind's been getting stronger these couple days, so I sealed all the windows. It's better if you don't run around, anyway."

From his words, everything seemed to make sense. Keeping him captive in the house, sealing all the windows-all of these was due to the bad weather.

"You're keeping me prisoner."

"It's for your own good. The weather's terrible, and you're naturally curious and like to run around."

That just sounded good on the surface. Tang Shan retorted, "Have you ever considered that if there ever was a fire, I would get burnt to death without even an escape route?"

Li Yuanyu stayed silent, unable to reply.

"If you really love me, then don't lock me in here." Tang Shan really didn't want to play this card since it made him sound weak. It was true, though, that he was powerless in front of Li Yuanyu.

"Don't question the love I have for you, it hurts me so much. I'm heartbroken," Li Yuanyu furrowed his brows, emphasising how wounded he felt. He reached out and held Tang Shan's hand on the table tightly, as if he trying to show his sincerity.

"I won't keep you locked in here anymore. If anything suddenly happens in the future, I'll bring you along."

Tang Shan stared at the hand covering his, wishing he could retract it as soon as possible. Now, he felt panicky at any contact with Li Yuanyu, though he couldn't tell if the increase in his heart rate was because of fear and

nervousness, or because of Li Yuanyu.

"Three soldiers got lost and wound up in the city in their jeep. I just went out to sort things out and helped them find somewhere to rest for now." Li Yuanyu spared Tang Shan and let go of his hand, changing the topic so as not to make it difficult for him.

Tang Shan retracted his hand and ducked his head, not looking at the other man.

"What are you thinking about?" Li Yuanyu inquired in a gentle but helpless tone.

"Nothing, nothing at all," Tang Shan shook his head, keeping his head down.

Li Yuanyu stared at the spirals in his hair, silent.

Even while feeling the strength of the gaze on him, Tang Shan still didn't dare to raise his head, instead lowering it further. Why wasn't his heart rate returning to normal?

In the end, only after Li Yuanyu left the kitchen did he relax, his body sprawled over the table as he stared blankly at the kitchen door for a long time. His heart rate gradually reduced to its usual speed, and only then did he realise how much his palms were sweating.

By the way, what did Li Yuanyu just say? Something about being lost, soldiers, a jeep, a place to stay? He wasn't listening closely, so he could only remember bits and pieces.



Not long after, the sound of a door opening came from the hallway, immediately followed by Jake's complaints.

"Aren't you over-exaggerating a little, to even call me over at this time and in this weather? Aren't you aware that I'm usually sleeping at this time? If you two have relationship problems, can you leave me out of it? I'm always stuck in the middle, and you know I'm not that free-"

Jake's voice came to a halt.

Curious, Tang Shan went forward to see what was happening and was met with the sight of Li Yuanyu with his arms folded in front of his chest, expressionless. Jake, on the other hand, looked like a nervous child who had done something wrong, his gaze flickering around.

When he saw Tang Shan, who had walked out of the kitchen, he suddenly brightened up, as if he'd found his savior. "Hey! We meet again!"

"Hey..." Tang Shan raised his hand and waved awkwardly.

Jake escaped from Li Yuanyu's side and approached him. "Sorry for bothering you, I'm here for the food."

"You two can go to the living room and wait first, I'll prepare dinner. Is there anything you want to eat?" Li Yuanyu followed suit and drew near to Tang Shan, the question obviously directed at him.

Jake quickly answered, "I want fried chicken!"

**Li Yuanyu gave Jake a brief, fierce glare.**

**Jake pouted in reply, softly muttering, "It's just a suggestion."**

**The two of them focused their attentions on Tang Shan. He considered Jake's hopeful look and Li Yuanyu's questioning one, and eventually decided, "Fried chicken doesn't sound bad, I want to have some too."**

**Jake gave a bright grin as he raised both arms up high and cheered loudly, running to the living room.**

**"Geez," Li Yuanyu shook his head, his hand naturally making its way to Tang Shan's back. "Is there anything else you want to eat?"**

**Tang Shan really wanted to avoid this overly intimate gesture, but at the thought of something else, he endured it.**

**"Hm?" Seeing him hesitate, Li Yuanyu tried to prompt him to go on.**

**"Borscht."**

**Li Yuanyu's hand stopped its movement, and Tang Shan could feel that he'd stiffened.**

**Li Yuanyu gave a forced laugh and patted him on the back. "Coming right up." He walked past him and into the kitchen.**

Perhaps Li Yuanyu might have found it strange that he would want Borscht. Tang Shan could understand the reason behind his reaction, though. The one who like Borscht was the Tang Shan who had his memory intact, not the one who had lost his memory.

He was honestly quite curious about the taste of this Borscht that had made him give in so easily. Maybe it was so good that it would help him regain his memories! Tang Shan wondered to himself, fantasizing situations that were largely exaggerated, like those in Japanese manga.

Tang Shan ambled to the living room and sat on the sofa. At the side, Jake was watching the cartoon, "Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner" on television. There were only exaggerated and comical sound effects with no dialogue at all.

After watching a small section, Tang Shan found it boring and the wheels in his head began to turn. He began to wonder if he could gather any information from Jake.

"Jake, let me ask you, do you know how long I've known Mr Li for?"

"Don't call him Mr Li, it sounds really awkward. If he hears you call him that, Li Yuanyu's gonna freak out again," Jake rolled his eyes, looking irritated.

Tang Shan stayed silent.

"You've known him and been with him for a long time. Even though your brain wasn't in a good condition and you frequently lost your memories, he

still stayed by your side. You should stop pitting yourself against him and treat him better!" Jake took the chance to complain.

You're the one with a bad brain! Those words sounded awfully harsh, but he couldn't deny it either. From the reactions he'd seen, it seemed he really did lose his memories quite often.

"The weather gets terrible whenever he's in a bad mood," Jake nagged on in a small voice.

"What?" Tang Shan didn't hear clearly and pressed closer to him, hoping he would repeat it in a louder voice.

"No-nothing!" Jake immediately denied, opening his eyes wide innocently. It was obvious he was feigning ignorance.

"Jake, you-"

"Beep beep!" Jake turned his gaze to the television, imitating the call of the Road Runner. He was pretending to be childish.

Tang Shan stared at him suspiciously. He knew Jake was hiding something, but he had no way of knowing what it was.

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ayszhang: We have another chapter for you coming right up! :)

## [Chapter 2](#)



# 4

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## Chapter 4

Tang Shan and Li Yuanyu sat side by side at the table, Jake opposite them. There was a whole variety of dishes on the table, amongst which were the main dishes-the roasted chicken and Borscht.

"Borscht?" Jake was quite surprised and glanced at Tang Shan.

"Tang Shan wanted it." Li Yuanyu explained simply.

"Oh..." Jake looked doubtful.

**Tang Shan didn't look at either of them during the course of the conversation, and once Li Yuanyu asked them to dig in, he quickly tried a spoonful of the Borscht.**

**This--**

**This is just the normal Borscht? Tang Shan was stunned at the taste, not expecting the shock and disappointment it brought him.**

**He didn't find this bowl of soup to be special in any way. It was just your usual Borscht.**

**Tang Shan's face went through a myriad of changes, his expression complicated. Eventually, he settled on a look of obvious disappointment.**

**"Does the soup... not suit your tastes?" Li Yuanyu had been watching his expressions, and he'd definitely seen the different emotions cross his face.**

**"No," Tang Shan lowered his arm and placed the soup spoon by the plate. He was in inner turmoil, confused as to why he had liked such an ordinary soup so much.**

**"What's wrong?" Li Yuanyu began to get nervous.**

**"It's nothing," Tang Shan couldn't even pretend to smile. "Sorry, I'm not very hungry, you two should go ahead. I-I'll head back to my room and get some rest."**

He stood up, ready to leave while he spoke. Feeling quite terrible and confused, he lacked the energy to interact with anyone then.

"Tang Shan?!" Li Yuanyu grabbed ahold of him.

Tang Shan retracted his hand in reflex, his movement so wide that he overturned some of the plates on the table. The Borscht spilled and porcelain plates fell to the ground, smashing into a million pieces upon impact.

"Holy crap! What are you doing!" Jake cried out in alarm as he pulled his chair a back, avoiding the small shards that flew his way.

Compared with his hastiness, the two other people in the dining room were still and seemingly motionless.

What kind of drama was this! Jake complained, "Come on! Don't get awkward around each other at this time!"

Tang Shan was so tired that he was expressionless, letting Li Yuanyu stare at him as he liked.

Li Yuanyu tilted his head a little but did not shift his gaze, and commanded Jake who was next to him, "Get a broom, pick up the pieces and clean it up."

"Hey, I'm your guest!" he protested.

"Go."



**Jake rubbed his nose sulkily but still left obediently.**

**Li Yuanyu stood up, quietly approaching Tang Shan and grabbed his hand.**

**Tang Shan obviously wanted to retreat, but he was unexpectedly swung over Li Yuanyu's shoulder! Everything spun before his eyes as his body was in mid-air, causing him to feel dizzy for an instant.**

**"Let-let me down!" Tang Shan had both his hands cupping his mouth, looking as if he was about to vomit. He'd closed his eyes to avoid the inverted scenery in front of him, for fear he'd get more nauseous.**

**He was eventually left on the sofa in the living room. Tang Shan kept his eyes closed throughout, hands still covering his mouth while looking quite sick.**

**"Are you going to be sick?" Li Yuanyu brought the trashcan in the corner to him and wiped the cold sweat off his face.**

**Tang Shan was feeling so uncomfortable that he didn't even feel like rejecting Li Yuanyu. He glanced at him weakly while he hugged the trashcan wordlessly. Everything came to a standstill for a moment, and then he began to spew out the soup.**

**Li Yuanyu patted his back, looking guilty. "I'm sorry, I was overeager and forgot you'd be nauseous from that. I'm sorry," he apologised twice. It was clear he blamed himself.**

**Tang Shan suddenly understood the significance of the Borscht. It was a signal for the two of them to reconcile, and could also be used as an apology.**

**"Oi! Li Yuanyu! Why's there blood on the floor?" Once he was done with sweeping the kitchen, Jake followed the trail of bloodstains out, only to gesture wildly at Li Yuanyu's feet as he made alarmed sounds. "You stepped on the fragments, don't you feel anything? Gosh, you're bleeding so much! Ugh... I can't take it anymore, I have a phobia of blood!"**

**Tang Shan looked up and was stunned upon seeing Li Yuanyu's bleeding foot. The wooden floor was filled with bloodied footprint stains. He finally understood why he'd been hoisted up-it was so he could avoid the fragments.**

**This man was so, so stupid.**

**"Tang Shan! Why are you crying?!" Li Yuanyu exclaimed in worry, hastily wiping away Tang Shan's continuous tears.**

**Tang Shan had no idea why he was crying, but tears kept welling up. He couldn't control himself, and all he did was stare at Li Yuanyu's continuously bleeding foot.**

**Li Yuanyu hugged him tightly, constantly murmuring words of comfort, "It's fine, I'm fine. Don't worry. I'm fine, I'll take care of it later. Don't worry about me."**

**Tang Shan did not seem to feel better even with that and tears began to fall even more fervently, amidst his frustration and discomfort. However, he had no clue where all these intense emotions were coming from.**

Not knowing how to deal with him, he turned and spoke to Jake, who had squatted down due to his haemophobia. "Jake, get the first aid kit for me," he pointed in a direction.

"Alright," Jake stood up with some difficulty and brought it over. As he got closer, he accidentally saw the blood that had gathered. In that instant, he got dizzy, got soft at the knees, and actually fainted.

Tang Shan looked past Li Yuanyu to Jake, and as he fell, the first aid kit dropped as well. The objects within were scattered all over.

Li Yuanyu was about to get up and retrieve them, but Tang Shan stopped him.

"Don't move, let me do it." He sat Li Yuanyu down on the sofa.

Tang Shan wiped his tear-streaked face and made his way over. Out of the items that were strewn, he picked out the tweezers, gauze, hydrogen peroxide solution, Betadine and cotton swabs. Once he was done, he brought them back and sat beside Li Yuanyu.

"Give me your foot."

"I'll do it myself," Li Yuanyu suddenly got reserved.

"Stop messing around, give me your foot," Tang Shan furrowed his eyebrows and urged him on.

**Li Yuanyu gave him a look, deliberated for a moment, and lifted his foot.**

**Tang Shan held onto his ankle and examined the injury on his soles. There were a few fragments that were embedded deeply into the flesh, and a few that had scraped his skin, resulting in a gory mixture of blood and flesh. It was no wonder it was bleeding so badly.**

**"Doesn't it hurt?" How could he endure it for so long? Tang Shan's brows stayed furrowed, an inexplicable anger rising within him. He picked up the tweezers and carefully picked out the shards one by one.**

**Li Yuanyu endured it without a sound, though the occasional twitches of his foot lay proof to the pain he felt.**

**"You idiot!" Tang Shan scolded, though he got gentler so as not to hurt him further. He carefully disinfected the wounds, applied some cream on it, and then wrapped it up.**

**Li Yuanyu had his hands on the sofa for support, and as he watched Tang Shan's movements, suddenly burst out, "It's at times like this that I think you're still in love with me even though you don't remember it anymore."**

**Tang Shan did not feel like speaking, and only looked up at him after wrapping and securing the gauze. Li Yuanyu looked quite pale and no better than he was, but he still gave him a slight smile, with a regretful but tender expression.**

**"Take care of yourself, I'm heading back to my room." Tang Shan patted Li**

Yuanyu on the foot and shifted it aside. He walked past Jake, who was on the floor, and left the living room.

Jake had just come to as well, and seeing Tang Shan pass by, absently asked, "Where are you going?"

Tang Shan did not bother with him and just left.

"Where's he going?" Jake turned and asked Li Yuanyu, confused. His foot had already been treated and wrapped up, and he stayed on the sofa, gaze chasing after Tang Shan.

That was a lovelorn gaze. Jake shook his head, finding that there was no cure for this man.

"I'm hungry." As he lay on the floor and stared at the ceiling, Jake rubbed his starving belly. Damn it! He hadn't even had the chance to drink any soup!

"Help yourself." Li Yuanyu stood up and stepped over him in pursuit of Tang Shan.

"You're really going crazy. Li Yuanyu, do you know how crazy you are!" Jake yelled at his back, and then began to laugh.

Li Yuanyu ignored Jake's mocking laughter, his focus entirely on Tang Shan. He approached the door to his room and knocked. Not hearing any reaction, he knocked once again. Seeing that there was still no answer, he grabbed the handle.

**"Stop it," Tang Shan dissuaded him from behind the door.**

**"Tang Shan," Li Yuanyu exclaimed in a hurt tone, and almost begged as he said the next line, "I won't do anything, just let me see you. I'll leave once you're asleep."**

**"No," Tang Shan rejected him, "I want to be alone."**

**It was quiet on the other side of the door after a while. Tang Shan pressed his ear to the door and listened, and it was silent. Was he gone? So easily? He didn't believe it and slowly opened the door without much thought. Along with the door, he was pushed backwards.**

**"You tricked me!" Tang Shan glared at Li Yuanyu, blaming himself for his stupidity. How could he have been taken in by this?**

**"I'm sorry. Ugh!" Li Yuanyu apologised, but he suddenly grunted, doubling over in pain.**

**"Your foot!" Tang Shan exclaimed anxiously, remembering his injury.**

**"It's nothing," Li Yuanyu tolerated it, but the cold sweat couldn't fool anyone.**

***It better be!* Tang Shan retreated, "Come in." It was an order.**

**Li Yuanyu gave a big smile, but when coupled with his pained expression, it**

seemed even more pitiful.

"Sit down, let me look at your foot."

"I'm really alright," Li Yuanyu tried to feign nonchalance.

Tang Shan rolled his eyes and grabbed his arm, pulling him onto the bed. He pulled a chair to the side and sat down.

"I--"

"Shut up." Tang Shan grabbed his foot and began to examine it. Just as he expected, it was bleeding again.

Li Yuanyu wanted to retract his foot, and Tang Shan simply let go and got up to leave.

Hastily, Li Yuanyu asked, "Where are you going?"

"I'm going to get the first aid kit, your foot needs to be wrapped again."

"I'll go with you," he said and tried to get off the bed.

"Stop!" Tang Shan ordered and took in a deep breath. In the end, he decided to compromise, "I'll get Jake to bring it up, just wait here."

Though Li Yuanyu waited obediently, his gaze never left Tang Shan.

**Tang Shan left the room and yelled for the person downstairs, "Jake, could you bring the first aid kit upstairs?"**

**"What?! But I just got started on this drumstick! Can't you give me enough time to finish just one drumstick?!" Jake shouted back, indignant.**

**Even though he was full of complaints, he still retrieved the first aid kit, though he dragged his feet along. It was obvious that he was furious.**

**"Thank you, you can get back to your drumstick now." Tang Shan thanked him after taking the first aid kit.**

**"Hmph!" Jake left in a huff.**

**He returned to Li Yuanyu, who told him, "He should treat you with more respect."**

**"Oh? On what grounds?" Tang Shan retorted. If he answered saying he belonged to Li Yuanyu or something like that, he'd definitely throw the kit at his face.**

**Li Yuanyu knew his temperament and kept quiet.**

**Tang Shan didn't feel like quarrelling with him as he was incredibly tired, especially after vomiting and crying earlier. He dragged the chair over, sat, and then patted Li Yuanyu's foot, implying for him to come closer. He took off the bandage that he had painstakingly wrapped. Seeing the gauze stained red,**



**Tang Shan gave a huge sigh, displaying his displeasure.**

**Both of them stayed silent while Tang Shan applied the medicine and re-wrapped the wound. Until he was done, nobody made a sound.**

**As Tang Shan looked up, he saw Li Yuanyu's gaze, and it was the same look.**

**He was aware that he shouldn't treat Li Yuanyu well, shouldn't help him reapply medicine worriedly, shouldn't let him get the wrong idea. However, he couldn't just leave Li Yuanyu as he was. With the way they were interacting at times like these, he knew Li Yuanyu would definitely not give up so easily. He might not make a sound even if he lost function in his foot.**

**Come to think of it, Tang Shan found that he was unable to steel his heart and ignore him.**

**Just as Li Yuanyu had said, in that instant, it seemed like he loved him. He couldn't deny the intense emotions he had as he faced Li Yuanyu, helpless and at a loss of what to do.**

**"Can I watch you sleep? I won't do anything, I definitely won't bother you," Li Yuanyu's hands were raised to display his sincerity.**

**"You just don't know when to give up, do you?" Tang Shan shook his head helplessly. He had lost to Li Yuanyu's stubbornness.**

**"I actually want to keep a distance from you." In the end, he made a compromise. Climbing into bed, facing away from the window, he waved to the person next to him, "Suit yourself, I'm tired, I'm going to bed first."**

**"Good night," Li Yuanyu said.**

**Tang Shan gave a nonchalant reply, closed his eyes, and was so tired that he immediately entered dreamland.**

**He should have some awareness, especially since Li Yuanyu had admitted himself to be his lover, and his body still had countless markings from intense sessions. Curiously enough, he was not at all worried that Li Yuanyu would do anything untoward.**

**In this ambiguous situation they were in, he'd chosen to trust him.**

**Or maybe he shouldn't trust him so much!**

**When Tang Shan was on the verge of waking up, he felt someone lightly kiss his forehead; it was light and gentle.**

**He opened his eyes and saw Li Yuanyu's poised appearance, and because he was acting so naturally, he didn't notice anything wrong. His gaze secretly stopped on Li Yuanyu and he realised they were both lying on the same bed. Li Yuanyu had read about two thirds of the book he had in his hand.**

***I felt the tilting of time under the bright sun along with the formless rain, the sleek wind, and our stillness.* Tang Shan remembered seeing that sentence he had glanced at.**

**"Is this book interesting?"**

**"It is."**

**"What's it about?"**

**"I'm not good at summarizing," Li Yuanyu answered modestly.**

**"It's fine, just tell me," Tang Shan encouraged him as he blinked himself awake, just so he could listen in a clear state of mind.**

**"It's about a pair of lovers that had been forced to separate due to the war. The male protagonist was brought somewhere far away as he had become a prisoner of war. After the war, the male protagonist was released and he returned to his hometown, wanting to meet his beloved. However, he was late in finding her-she had already passed away.**

**"He later found out that she had been waiting for news of him everyday and was immeasurably moved. Until he died of old age, he never remarried and stayed by her grave till his death." Li Yuanyu lamented, his expression thoughtful.**

**"Hmm." Even after hearing all that, Tang Shan did not have much of a reaction.**

**"It's not my first time reading it, so I know the ending. Every time I read the last chapter, it's always very touching. I really like this book," Li Yuanyu added after seeing Tang Shan's lack of interest.**

**"It's just a story and it's not even real. I'm rather surprised by you."**

**"Huh? What do you mean?"**

**"I didn't think you'd — you know, act like a teenage girl." Tang Shan wanted to laugh but knew it wasn't the time to, so his expression ended up a little stiff.**

**"I just believe in true love." Li Yuanyu retorted, but it was futile. Tang Shan couldn't help but burst out in laughter.**

**He looked so serious while he said that, but that look only reaffirmed his thoughts that Li Yuanyu was stupid for believing in true love. He continued to laugh while clutching his stomach from the intensity, but then felt that it wasn't nice to laugh at someone, so he settled on apologising while he laughed. There was no sincerity in his words at all.**

**"You're laughing at me!" Li Yuanyu placed his book aside and leaned over to attack him by way of tickles. "Laugh! I'll make you laugh all you want!"**

**"Whoa! Help! No! Hahaha! It tickles, stop it! Hahaha..." Tang Shan was laughing so hard that he was breathless as his four limbs kept jerking around. Only when Li Yuanyu stopped did he realise they were very close to each other, to the point that they could feel each other's breaths.**

**"You should get off my bed," Tang Shan watched Li Yuanyu, his heart rate fast, though he had no idea if it was because they'd played around so much, or if there was another reason.**

Li Yuanyu stayed silent for a moment while looking at him, and left the bed as ordered.

"Get up and wash up. We can go out for a stroll once we're done with breakfast." Li Yuanyu looked at Tang Shan once more, and then limped out of the room.

Giving a sigh of relief, Tang Shan sat up. The atmosphere that day seemed to be much better than previously, though maybe it had to do with Li Yuanyu's injury. Li Yuanyu didn't seem to pose a threat to him.

How could he even think of taking a stroll when his foot was in such a state? What a joke. Tang Shan left his room to wash up, and since there was a change of clothes in the bathroom, he took it and found that they fit him perfectly.

He went downstairs and could smell bacon and black tea in the air, the scent stimulating his senses and causing him to feel hungry. Come to think of it, he didn't get the chance to eat anything last night, and the little soup he had managed to drink had been spat out.

"The weather today is perfect for a stroll." Seeing him appear, Li Yuanyu smilingly poured him a cup of black tea and added three spoons of sugar.

"Your foot is hurt, how are we going to take a stroll?" Tang Shan didn't feel like finding out how Li Yuanyu knew how he liked to take his black tea, and instead looked at his foot, worried about the injury.

"My foot's a lot better, and we're only going to walk around the neighbourhood. It's fine." Li Yuanyu just brushed it off.

**Tang Shan made a sound at that, "It better be."**

**"It's true! You can see for yourself if we walk around for a while."**

**"How about I just wander around on my own while you rest and wait for me at home?" And he wouldn't come back.**

**Tang Shan's hidden meaning was less than subtle, and Li Yuanyu obviously rejected his suggestion and even glared at him for that.**

**Taking a sandwich, Tang Shan began to dig into it, using the action as a shield from Li Yuanyu's furious eyes.**

**"By the way, there's something I want to ask you about," Tang Shan spoke as he ate, "Did you sneak a kiss while I was asleep?"**

**A hint of red rushed up Li Yuanyu's face and he was stunned into silence.**

**Upon seeing that, Tang Shan immediately understood and nodded. "Don't come into my room anymore."**

**"Tang Shan- "**

**Li Yuanyu's words were interrupted by the sound of the doorbell. He wanted to make things clear with Tang Shan and was unwilling to answer it, but the doorbell was ringing incessantly. It was obvious that the person outside was extremely hurried, and he had no choice but to put their conversation on hold**

and open the door.

"Why did you take so long!" It was Jake's voice.

"Watch your tone."

Tang Shan put down his sandwich and went to find out the situation.

"Those three people who came yesterday went missing. At around 2.30am, surveillance cameras on the streets were able to snap some footage of them, but nobody knows where they went after that," Jake reported the situation. Seeing Tang Shan appear from the corner of his eye, he suddenly looked a little awkward.

He didn't expect Tang Shan to be there and had no idea how much of the conversation he'd heard.

Seeing the change in expression, Li Yuanyu turned to see Tang Shan and continued, "It's fine, just continue."

"Anyway, I called for a car for you to meet up with the police." Jake had already had everything arranged and glanced at Tang Shan. "How about him? Are you bringing him too?"

"No, it's too dangerous," Li Yuanyu shook his head and turned to Tang Shan, "Could you stay at home? Sorry, I know that it's unfair for you since I even promised you yesterday that I'd bring you everywhere I went."

**"It's alright," Tang Shan answered, understanding something seemed to have gone terribly wrong.**

**"I'll let Jake stay here to accompany you."**

**"Hey!" Jake protested. How could he do that without his consent? What happened to his human rights?**

**Li Yuanyu turned and gave him a look.**

**"I'll stay behind," Jake immediately raised his arms, "Go, everyone's waiting for you."**

**Li Yuanyu nodded, apologised to Tang Shan behind him and left somewhat reluctantly.**

**Once he was gone, Jake and Tang Shan were left staring at each other. Tang Shan didn't feel like bothering with him and went back to the kitchen to finish his sandwich. Jake, on the other hand, scratched his nose for a moment before following him in.**

**"Is there anything to eat?" Jake entered the kitchen and looked for food.**

**"I don't know, just help yourself. This isn't my house," Tang Shan replied coldly.**

**"You're pretty much the second owner of this house though." Jake took out the jam, peanut butter and toast, and sat at the dining table. He took a knife**



and began to slather a very thick layer of jam and peanut butter onto a slice of toast.

"I'm not," Tang Shan denied. Having his sandwich, he finished the black tea. After finishing his breakfast, he had nothing to do and stayed in the kitchen. His two hands were left on the table while he watched Jake have his toast.

Tang Shan stayed silent, and having someone stare at him for so long, Jake eventually felt uncomfortable.

"Wha-What do you want?" Jake got alert.

"Hmm, I was just thinking, Li Yuanyu originally told me that he wanted to go on a walk with me today, but he left." Tang Shan was plotting something.

"So?" Jake had a bad feeling about this.

"Since he let you stay with me, you should accompany me out on a stroll." Tang Shan had used an affirmative sentence and left no room for questions.

"No way!"

"We leave at ten." Tang Shan checked the clock and saw it was nine-thirty. They had half an hour left to prepare.

"You're really planning to go out!" Jake cried out, "I went out with you the last time, didn't I?"

**"But we didn't get to see everything! Li Yuanyu made us come back right?"**

**"If he finds out, he'd slaughter me! I'm begging you, can you just stay at home like a good boy? I'll do anything with you as long as you don't go out," Jake begged, hoping he'd give up.**

**"Anything?"**

**"Yeah, anything!"**

**Tang Shan suddenly gave an evil laugh and Jake felt a shiver run down his spine. Tang Shan smiling seemed to be quite similar to Li Yuanyu when he was angry.**

**"Jake."**

**"What!" Jake was terrified and quickly got some water to hide his nerves.**

**"Even though I don't like men, everyone's telling me that I'm in a relationship with Li Yuanyu. I really want to test if I can be with another man. You're pretty cute and in the acceptable range, so would you like to to have sex with me?"**

**Jake instantly spat out all the water in his mouth.**

**"Are you for real?!"**

Tang Shan shrugged, "Do I look like I'm joking?"

"What time did you say you wanted to leave? Ten? We don't have to wait that long. I'm almost done with my meal, we can leave immediately after." Jake quickly agreed.

Having sex with Tang Shan? What a joke, if it was said that bringing him out would result in his death, having sex with him would result in him literally being torn from limb to limb. He was going to die anyway, and he obviously wanted to die in a less painful manner.

Tang Shan grinned, looking peacefully in another direction while he ignored Jake, who had begun to stuff toast into his mouth. What a detestful world.

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Ying says: I am travelling in Spain right now so ayszhang will be replying to comments.

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[Chapter 5](#)

# 5

Translator: Ying

Proofreaders: ayszhang, happyBuddha



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## Chapter 5

**"You may not know this, but the situation out there is rather dangerous right now!" From the moment they stepped out of the house, Jake had been muttering constantly. "Slow down, you asshole! Why did Li Yuanyu have to leave you with me now of all times? What have I done to deserve this?"**

**"How is it dangerous? Is it because of those three soldiers who got lost?"**

**"Uh..." Jake faltered, unable to answer.**

**"Is it another secret?" Tang Shan rolled his eyes.**

**"It's not a really a secret, but, uh, I don't know if I can tell you."**

**"If you don't tell me, how would I know how dangerous it is out there?"**

**"That's true. I guess there's no harm in telling you." After deliberating on it, Jake proceeded to tell him everything. "After some research into the background of those three soldiers, we found that they'd escaped from the army. We've already informed the military and they'll send people over to deal with the situation. Now they've disappeared... You can tell how serious this is, right? Hey! Are you even listening? Hey!"**

**Jake cursed and shouted, creating a ruckus behind him, but Tang Shan turned a deaf ear to his actions, moving forward with large steps as he pleased.**

**"Oi! Don't go towards the city! Oi!!! I told you not to go there!" Jake couldn't control him at all. In the blink of an eye, Tang Shan had already entered the alleys, which were maze-like and difficult to tell apart. Jake hurriedly rushed after him, but by the time he got to the entrance of the alleyway, Tang Shan was nowhere to be seen.**

**"I'm finished! This is game over for me..." Jake had given up all hope. He'd actually lost Tang Shan.**

**Tang Shan squatted in the shadows of the alley, watching as Jake rushed past him. He didn't dare to act recklessly and waited quietly for him to move further away.**

**"Tang Shan! Where are you? Don't try to fool me! Come out! Tang Shan!"**

Jake's voice eventually faded into the distance, and Tang Shan decided that it was the best time to leave. Just as he was about to get up, he was stopped.

**"Hey!"**

From somewhere around him, he heard some rustling. Three men appeared from within the alley, dressed in the green camouflage military uniform. There were two men and a woman, and the person who had stopped him was the black woman.

**"You're Tang Shan?"**

Tang Shan watched them closely. Seeing that they didn't seem friendly, he did not bother replying.

**"You're the manager's partner, aren't you?"** the female soldier came closer to him and inquired.

**"Get him,"** one of the men exclaimed and pushed the woman aside, stepping onto Tang Shan's shoulder and kicking at his head.

**"Hey! Didn't we agree not to use violence?"** The woman shoved at the man, expressing her discontent.

**"Shut up, woman!"** His tone was that of disdain, and he even spat at her.

Tang Shan held his shoulder, feeling a little dizzy. The man had not been

holding back. Hearing them beginning to argue amongst themselves, he found that it was best if he left as quickly as possible. However, just when he'd managed to crawl a small distance using his arms, a pair of army boots appeared in front of him.

"Where do you think you're going?" The third soldier blocked his way, dissipating any hopes he had of escaping.

Jake's voice had also travelled over. It seemed like he'd heard the argument and was rushing over.

"Jake, save me! Jake! I'm here!" Tang Shan yelled as loudly as he could. He was left with no other choice and had the feeling that these three soldiers might actually kill him.

"Shut him up, you idiot!"

After some confusion, there was an acute pain from the back of his head. Things went black in front of him, and he immediately lost consciousness.

-----

Tang Shan had disappeared!

Jake nervously brought this news to Li Yuanyu, who appeared to be calm and collected. However, the metal pointer (used to mark out things on the whiteboard) in his grip had been bent out of shape by his bare hands.

The police officers around him looked at each other, faces struck with fear as they wondered if they could leave the meeting room before he blew up.

**"Do as I said just now. You're dismissed."**

**They quickly dispersed, relieved at having received permission to do so.**

**Only Jake and Li Yuanyu were left in the meeting room.**

**Jake stood at his spot, stricken with fear. He knew he'd committed a huge crime and had no idea how Li Yuanyu would punish him.**

**"Don't get so nervous. You can't be blamed for this. I know Tang Shan's character better than anyone else. It's impossible for you to control him. If he were so easy to control, I wouldn't need to get so worried about him all the time." Unexpectedly, Li Yuanyu seemed to be very understanding, though he was expressionless when he spoke.**

**Even though that was what he said, Jake still couldn't completely heave a sigh of relief. After all, that person had disappeared on his watch, right under his nose.**

**"The patrol team is going to conduct a blanket search. Right now, what we need the most are helpers, so you should join them. Leave me alone for a while." Li Yuanyu waved Jake away.**

**Jake glanced at Li Yuanyu once more before he left the room, taking in the signs of fatigue on him. He knew what Li Yuanyu was feeling. With such a problematic and immature lover, it was obvious that it would be troubling.**



**If Li Yuanyu wasn't so fixated on Tang Shan, his life would be a lot better.**

**Or really, everyone's lives would be a lot better.**

—

**Tang Shan was beaten awake and he forced his eyelids open. The person who was hitting him was the female soldier, the only mediator in the group of three.**

**"Hurry up, we need to be on our way." The woman slapped him again and he felt his face swelling up.**

**Tang Shan tried to move but realised his hands had been tied behind his back. His mouth was stuffed with a piece of cloth, and was also tied up with rope. The cloth in his mouth had an awful smell, and he suspected the gag was one of the soldier's socks.**

**"Get up!" the woman pushed him unreservedly.**

**His legs seemed to be numb and he couldn't gather any strength in them. Tang Shan stood up with some difficulty, and with a moan of pain, took a step, wobbled, and almost fell backwards. Someone caught hold of him.**

**"Stop wasting your time talking! Hurry up or they're going to catch up to us!" One of the soldiers grabbed Tang Shan and left hurriedly. The direction they took was rather strange, from one alleyway to another.**

Tang Shan was unfamiliar with the pathways in the city and had absolutely no sense of direction. All he knew was that his legs were so numb that he couldn't walk, and he was almost being dragged along. The putrid smell was overwhelming him, but he couldn't vomit even if he tried. It was extremely uncomfortable.

While they were moving, he would often hear voices that seemed to be searching for them. From the volume, there were definitely more than one or two people. This caused the soldiers to be extremely anxious, and they hastened the pace.

Tang Shan had been dragged along the whole time and felt like his wrist was going to be broken. Cold sweat kept dripping down his back.

They finally made it to the tunnel that was pitch black inside.

"We should be able to escape from this town if we take the tunnel. This is the only way out of the city." The female soldier continued on, "We couldn't tell where the tunnel lead to from the roof of a building, but this is the only way out."

"It doesn't matter. There's only one way to find out!"

It wasn't as if they had any other option to fall back on.

They walked along the walls of the tunnel, afraid a car would appear. Luckily, there were no rails on the ground, which meant that trains didn't pass through here.

**The further they walked in the dark tunnel, the more afraid they became.**

**"Why haven't we reached the end of the tunnel yet? There's not even a hint of light!"**

**"Hey! Don't stop! Keep walking!"**

**The four of them bumped into one another, and Tang Shan, who had not been steady on his feet, fell to the ground. He was pulled up again.**

**"What's with you? Don't you even know how to stand properly?"**

**In the midst of the scolding, someone else shoved him.**

**"Hey, that's enough. Stop arguing and save your strength! We still don't know how much longer we have to walk till we can get out!" Apparently, the person holding onto him was now the woman. No wonder the strength of the hold on him had lessened quite a bit.**

**"Who the hell suggested we walk into this stupid tunnel!"**

**"This is the only way out!"**

**"It better be!"**

**"Shut up, both of you!" the female soldier yelled. Her voice echoed back, causing everyone to quiet down.**

In her emotional state, she grabbed onto Tang Shan tighter, her fingernails digging deeper into his flesh. Tang Shan groaned in pain but could not make any sound.

"The reason why we haven't seen the end despite walking for such a long time is probably because this tunnel isn't going straight. There may be a curve somewhere. Let's keep walking. We'll definitely see the end. It's not the time for internal strife right now."

The three of them calmed down and set off again. Afraid that they'd lose their sense of direction after being in the dark for an extended period of time, they decided that for every few meters they walked, they would bend a glow stick to illuminate the area.

They had a total of nine glow sticks, with three on each person. When the third glow stick's light faded away, they still hadn't gotten to the curve, and much less the end. The enraged soldier threw the glow stick forward with a fair bit of strength, and the faint green glow stick flew quite a distance before it fell. It rolled forward for a bit of time before stopping, but there didn't seem to be any signs of it reaching the end, as usual.

"What's the furthest you can throw a hand grenade?" One of them asked their partner.

"My record's forty metres."

"What? So even if we walk another forty metres, we still won't reach the end? Damn it, we've spent forever in this tunnel and we still don't know how long it'll take for us to get out!"

Right after was another round of cursing that was too fast for Tang Shan to follow.

"Save your strength," the female soldier sounded tired.

Tang Shan found it incredibly strange. This tunnel was so long to the point that it was disconcerting. It was so dark around them, but there wasn't a single light. In addition, they'd been here for such a long period of time, yet not even a car passed through. They hadn't seen anything alive either, not even a bat or something like that.

He remembered coming here with Jake after waking with no memory. He had a feeling that no cars could come through, and that they should enter it.

Thinking through every detail, he began to feel frightened.

Why did he feel that he had to walk towards a dark tunnel that he could not see the end of? Tang Shan was absorbed in the labyrinth of thoughts in his mind, letting the female soldier push him along.

"That's it! I'm done! I can't go on anymore! This makes no sense!"

Finally, somebody gave up. Tang Shan heard the sound of something metallic and a rock smashing against each other, and that person seemed to have sat where he was standing.

"Stop joking around! We usually have to march for a lot longer than this!"

**"This is even scarier than marching. You don't know your destination and you're just wandering around aimlessly. I can't take it anymore! Go on if you want! I'm turning back!"**

**"You're impossible! Back in the army, you couldn't endure anything remotely difficult as well. What kind of soldier are you? If you thought you could keep living your spoilt city life in the army, think again!" another man scolded.**

**"Who are you to scold me? Your abilities are way below mine. I'm more suited to be a soldier!"**

**"What the army needs is obedient soldiers, not supermen! You don't even have any team spirit at all, and you still think you're suited to be a soldier?! I must have done something terrible in my previous life to have been assigned to the same squad as you!"**

**"Enough. Stop arguing!" the female soldier stopped them again.**

**However, nobody listened to her this time. The argument continued. In the darkness where nobody could see anybody else, they could only rely on the dim lighting from the glow sticks.**

**The situation was getting more dramatic. One had pounced on another and began assaulting him, and Tang Shan could hear the sound of flesh hitting against each other. The glow stick had fallen onto the floor.**

**"Stop it, stop it! You two-just stop it!" the female soldier lost her cool and started yelling, but to no avail.**

The person who had the advantage got tired and finally stopped. He didn't care whether his opponent was dead or alive and wrung his hands, before walking over to get his glow stick.

In the faint light, Tang Shan could see blood on the man's hands. He walked to Tang Shan and the female soldier, expression cold. "Don't bother with him. Let's go."

Tang Shan believed he might have killed the man.

"If you don't want to be the next one, then move," she warned, her tone a lot icier than before.

Tang Shan could only follow her directions. Even though his hand seemed to be getting increasingly numb, he could still bear it. He couldn't even yell out in pain even if he tried anyway.

When the fifth glow stick got dimmer, they halted their footsteps once again.

"Hey! Wait! I think I bumped into something!"

The female soldier stopped and looked back towards her companion, but it was just pitch black behind her.

"I think I stepped on a person." the man spoke, and then bent another glow stick, red light illuminating the area. He moved it towards his foot and

suddenly yelled in surprise, moving backwards. However, he stumbled over a rock behind him and fell, the glow stick flying a distance away.

The man was only two steps away from them, but it was too dark for them to know what he'd seen.

"Hey! Don't throw your glow sticks around! What's wrong with you?" the female soldier picked up the glow stick that he'd thrown.

"He-he- he's back..." his voice trembled as he stuttered, thoroughly shocked.

"Who? What are you talking about?" The female soldier was completely confused and waved her glow stick around, finally allowing her to see her companion who had fallen.

"There! Right there! See for yourself!" He pointed in a direction.

She pulled Tang Shan along in that direction he'd pointed and confirmed there was someone on the floor. She squatted and moved the glow stick towards the person's face, wanting to see his features.

It was the man who had fallen in the fight just now. Tang Shan couldn't help but shiver in fear, and he also heard the woman gasp.

That person had really been killed.

"There's something wrong with this place! We've walked for such a long time, but why are we back to the same place?!" The man scratched his head in



his frustration. His head was flat and he didn't really have much hair to pull, so all that was heard was a faint rustling.

"Are we actually moving forward? Or are we walking in circles?"

After the question was asked, the both of them became silent.

The female soldier suddenly let Tang Shan's hands go, untied the rope around his mouth and pulled out the sock from his mouth.

"You're from here. Tell me what we need to do to leave," she asked, inwardly thinking that she should have done this long ago. There was a living map right next to her, but she hadn't even considered that.

Tang Shan coughed a few times, and before he could even gather his breath, someone started shaking his body, forcing him to answer. "I don't know."

*Slap.*

"Stop pretending! Do you really want us to beat you up?" she threatened and pushed him to the ground. She hooked the rope from just now over his ankle.

Tang Shan could tell the situation wasn't good. He really didn't know how to leave this place, but these two people wouldn't possibly believe him.

The female soldier mercilessly tightened the rope on his ankle and kept increasing the pressure on it.

**"Ahhhhh!" Tang Shan cried out pitifully.**

**They were going to cripple him!**

**Tang Shan knew he couldn't take it for much longer and he had to think up a plan to somehow fool them. The best method was to pretend he knew the way to leave.**

**"This tunnel is a dead end. You can't get out. You have to go back and find other exits!" The gears in Tang Shan's mind quickly turned, and he came up with a random explanation.**

**"There's no other way out!" the man exclaimed in agitation.**

**"Wait, don't you find this strange? We've been in this tunnel for quite some time, right? Why hasn't anyone come in to search for us?" She calmed down and also realised something strange about their situation.**

**They'd been assuming there were troops searching for them, yet there hadn't been any people or sounds to indicate as such.**

**If they turned back, they might not be discovered, but there was also the possibility that those troops were aware that this tunnel was a dead end and were waiting for them at the entrance.**

**She raised this question, and the other soldier quickly answered, "What's there to be afraid of? We have a hostage here."**

What they came up with in the end was that they should walk in the other direction and leave the tunnel. As they were afraid Tang Shan would scream for help, they stuffed the sock into his mouth again to ensure he wouldn't do so.

Heading back was another problem since they were only left with four glow sticks. They'd walked too far and couldn't see the light from the entrance. They were completely surrounded by darkness.

Tang Shan wasn't like the soldiers and had had no former physical training. Aside from that, he also had injuries that caused him pain all over his body, and he felt that he couldn't take it for much longer. His consciousness was already beginning to fade.

In the dark tunnel, there was no sense of time. After walking for a long period of time, Tang Shan couldn't withstand the fatigue in his body and fainted. Even then, he seemed to hear the female soldier scolding him, but he didn't have the time to bother with that as he fell.

He didn't know how long he'd been unconscious for, but it seemed to be just the blink of an eye for him. When he opened his eyes, the scenery around him had completely changed.

A yellow glow stick was right in front of his eyes while he lay on the ground. The female soldier's face was about ten centimetres in front of him, and between them was the yellow glow stick. The female soldier stared at him expressionlessly.

Tang Shan wanted to yell, but his mouth was still stuffed. He inhaled sharply

and tried to move his body, but he couldn't move. His body was so exhausted that he couldn't gather any strength at all, and he could only lay face to face with the dead woman.

It was dark and moist in the tunnel, and there was the smell of blood in the air. The stone floor was cold, and the yellow glow stick was gradually losing its light. All that was left was Tang Shan gradually becoming blanketed by the darkness.

It was so quiet around him that there was not even the sound of wind. All he could hear was his own breathing.

It was indescribably frightening.

In these circumstances, he thought of Li Yuanyu and how he might come to save him. That was his last hope.

His consciousness began to fade, and he slowly closed his eyes.

"He's here!"

Someone suddenly yelled, but his hearing began to muddle. He felt the restrictions on his body release, and then felt someone carry him. Even though he couldn't see anything, he could still recognise the familiar smell that allowed him to lower his guard and fall asleep.

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**It felt like he had had a good, dreamless sleep.**

**"Hm, his injuries seem pretty much recovered by now. When do you think he'll wake up?"**

**It seemed to be Jake's voice.**

**There wasn't an answer, but there was some water being fed into his mouth. Tang Shan couldn't resist it, but the second time he was fed more water, he slowly began to awaken.**

**The person in front of him was Li Yuanyu.**

**"Hey."**

**Li Yuanyu's lips had been moistened by the water and they glistened, giving him the urge to bite it.**

**Tang Shan blinked, his reactions still a little slow. Wordlessly, he stared at Li Yuanyu's lips.**

**"Do you want more?" Li Yuanyu lifted the cup and shook it while he asked.**

**Tang Shan wanted to reach out for it, but he suddenly realised there was a horrible scar on his wrist. Thinking back to all he had experienced, he dropped his hand.**

The female soldier had died, and the sight of her staring at him seemed to be carved into his mind. The moment he remembered it, his skin began to crawl and he began to tremble in fear, whimpering slightly.

It was terrifying! It felt like she was still staring at him.

"Oi, Li Yuanyu, is he really alright? From what I see, there's something wrong..." Jake began to worry upon seeing that.

Li Yuanyu didn't bother replying and gathered Tang Shan, who had curled into a ball, into his arms. "It's okay. You're safe now."

"Li Yuanyu, Li Yuanyu, Li Yuanyu..." Tang Shan held him like a drowning person who had found a piece of driftwood.

"I'm here. You're fine. You're safe. I'll protect you." Li Yuanyu continuously provided him with words of comfort.

Seeing them, Jake read the atmosphere and left quietly.

Tang Shan eventually calmed down and rested his head against Li Yuanyu's shoulder, looking dazed. He didn't even bother with the inappropriateness of their position, and along with the security he felt with the hug, the terror in his heart gradually subsided.

"Are you hungry? Should I make you something?" Li Yuanyu asked.

His voice was very gentle, just as it had always been, but Tang Shan didn't

want to leave his embrace, nor did he want him to leave. He held onto Li Yuanyu tightly, shaking his head to indicate he couldn't stomach the food.

"You should get something in your stomach. You've slept for quite a few days and it's not good for your body to go without food for so long." Li Yuanyu tried to push him away.

However, Tang Shan still held onto him, unwilling to let him go. He lowered his head and buried it in Li Yuanyu's neck, silently protesting.

"Or should I get Jake to bring some food up?"

Tang Shan stayed silent, unmoving.

*He's only obedient and cute at times like this,* Li Yuanyu thought to himself.

He sighed soundlessly, and Tang Shan, who was pressed tightly against him, felt the fluctuation in his breathing. Thinking that he was bothering Li Yuanyu, he hesitated but managed to suppress the longing in his heart and eventually let go, backing out of Li Yuanyu's embrace.

Tang Shan spoke with some difficulty, "I'm sorry."

He moved to the head of the bed, creating distance between them, and curled up like a kitten that had been scared stiff.

Li Yuanyu knew Tang Shan had mistaken the reason he'd sighed, and in his helplessness, felt even more protective of him.

**"That's not it," Li Yuanyu got closer to him and gently stroked his hair that was sticking out in all directions, and then touched his face. He wanted to explain, but had no idea how to do so.**

**After a long moment of silence, Tang Shan looked up and watched Li Yuanyu, wondering what he was going to say.**

**"I love you. I love you more than anyone else in the world." Li Yuanyu suddenly confessed.**

**Tang Shan lowered his head again. Li Yuanyu came closer and embraced him once more.**

**"Tang Shan, you're in my arms now." He sighed happily again.**

**Tang Shan finally understood.**

**"Tang Shan, I won't say that I'm doing all these without expecting you to reciprocate. I can wait till you get used to this, but please don't say you'll leave me again," Li Yuanyu hugged Tang Shan tightly, as if he wanted to become one with him.**

**Tang Shan faltered. The rational and irrational parts of him were dueling against each other, causing him to feel conflicted.**

**He wasn't homosexual, nor did he wish to become homosexual. He was a completely normal man...**



**But Li Yuanyu was special!**

**When Jake finished his third cup of fruit tea, the two owners of the house reappeared, and were unexpectedly holding hands.**

**Li Yuanyu brought Tang Shan to the side of the dining table and pulled the chair out for his lover, letting him sit. He wanted to get some food from the counter, but Tang Shan didn't seem to have any intentions of letting go.**

**"Jake, could you get the sandwiches from the fridge for me, please?" Li Yuanyu asked Jake.**

**It must be the end of the world! Jake couldn't accept the sudden change in attitude Li Yuanyu was taking with him and stood there, stunned. He stared at their intimate position as they stayed glued to each other.**

**Fine, he might have been exaggerating. They were just holding hands while Tang Shan was seated, and his gaze wasn't even on Li Yuanyu. However, Li Yuanyu was watching Tang Shan with eyes of love and devotion.**

**It was so sweet it was disgusting!**

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**ayszhang says: Apologies for the slightly late post. Both Ying and I were caught up in some things. Not a good day for me in general :(**

**Chapter 4**



# 6

Translator: Ying

Proofreaders: ayszhang, happyBuddha



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## Chapter 6

He seemed to be surrounded by warm water, floating gently as it warmed him. It was extremely comfortable.

He didn't want to wake up. However, he was already awake, and nonetheless, continued to laze around in bed.

While he was extremely unwilling to do so, Tang Shan finally opened his eyes.

He'd never imagined he would feel safe and a sense of belonging from a man's embrace. It was something that he had felt strongly against, but at this point, it no longer bothered him.

"Good morning. How did you sleep?" Li Yuanyu kissed his forehead with a smile and greeted him. He had woken up long ago and seemed to have been staring at his sleeping face all this while.

"Mmhh." Tang Shan groaned in reply and sat up. He rubbed at his eyes with his hand and yawned.

Li Yuanyu also sat up and came from behind, hugging him around the waist. He placed his face against Tang Shan's back.

"I love you, Tang Shan."

"Okay."

He took advantage of the situation and began kissing the back of Tang Shan's neck.

"Stop it." Tang Shan turned away and discouraged him.

"I'm sorry." His apology didn't sound sincere at all, but Li Yuanyu was aware that Tang Shan didn't like him clinging on like this. He had no choice but to let go.

Tang Shan thought he'd given plenty of leeway, and yet Li Yuanyu was still

**greedy for more.**

**It wasn't that Li Yuanyu wasn't allowed to do this, but Tang Shan needed more time. Li Yuanyu should know that.**

**He got off the bed, preparing to wash up in the bathroom. He didn't get to take more than a few steps before the man behind him hugged his waist and whispered into his ear, "I can't bear to let you go."**

**"I'm just going to the bathroom."**

**"Can't we go together?" Li Yuanyu was already a grown man, and yet here he was, acting like a spoilt child.**

**"Nope." Tang Shan outright refused him. No matter if Li Yuanyu acted cute or like a spoilt child to him, it didn't matter. He wasn't ready to show Li Yuanyu his naked body yet.**

**Li Yuanyu kept silent in his disappointment. Tang Shan ignored him and proceeded towards the bathroom. Luckily for him, Li Yuanyu didn't follow him inside and stayed by the doorway, staring at him pitifully with puppy eyes.**

**Tang Shan rolled his eyes in answer and closed the door in his face.**

**After a quick wash-up, he left the bathroom, only to find Li Yuanyu still at the door in the same position.**

**Ever since the kidnapping incident, Li Yuanyu changed his tactics and stuck**

close to him, not giving him any space. At the beginning when his emotions were still unstable, he constantly needed someone by his side. Now that he was much better, this behaviour was gradually grating on his nerves.

Li Yuanyu smiled at him and reached for his hand naturally, and they went downstairs together.

Seeing their hands laced together, Tang Shan wished he could take his hand back. However, that was the one thing he couldn't bring himself to do.

Just the thought of Li Yuanyu's upset expression caused knots in his stomach.

"What's wrong? You look worried." Li Yuanyu turned back and caressed Tang Shan's cheek, using his fingers to smoothen the lines of worry between his brows.

"It's nothing." Tang Shan pushed his hands away. "I was wondering if we could go out for breakfast. I'm getting tired of the food at home."

Li Yuanyu was initially disappointed at how Tang Shan pushed his hand aside, but the moment he heard the word "home", he quickly cheered up despite it possibly being said just in passing, with no extra meaning behind it.

"What are you smiling about?" Seeing him grinning, Tang Shan furrowed his brows in distrust.

"It's nothing," Li Yuanyu answered, giving the same reply as Tang Shan. He linked their hands together.

**"Let's go, I'll take you to a restaurant."**

**Just as Li Yuanyu opened the door, they discovered Jake right about to press the doorbell, his hand suspended in the air.**

**"Morning! What a coincidence, I was just about to ring the doorbell!" he greeted merrily.**

**In contrast with Jake's good mood, Li Yuanyu seemed to be unhappy.**

**"What are you doing here?"**

**"Um, I'm just here to visit you and maybe have some breakfast as well. Are you two going out?" Noticing that Li Yuanyu's didn't seem to be in the best mood, Jake made a show of smiling. Seeing Tang Shan behind him, he could guess at the situation.**

**"Do you want to come along?" Tang Shan invited him.**

**"Oh! Can I?" Jake's immediately lightened up, but the sight of Li Yuanyu's scorching glare caused him to trail off, "Nah, it's okay! I just remembered I had some things to tend to!"**

**It was obviously a lie, but Tang Shan didn't bother seeing through it. He turned to Li Yuanyu, and the change in his mood for the better caused Tang Shan to shake his head. He was just like a little kid. There really was nothing he wouldn't do to ensure the two of them would enjoy their time together.**

**"You're the manager of this city. I expected you to be more tolerant." Tang Shan chastised him.**

**"That's different. You can't put it like that," Li Yuanyu defended himself.**

**"Let's go." Tang Shan couldn't be bothered with continuing this conversation and quickly got them to leave the house.**

**The moment they were outside, Tang Shan wanted to retract his hand. Two men holding hands out in the open seemed quite inappropriate. He had a rather traditional mentality and was unwilling to meet with the condescending gazes from the public. However, despite wiggling his hand around, he couldn't get Li Yuanyu to let go.**

**"What's wrong?" Li Yuanyu enquired.**

**"Can we not hold hands in public?" Tang Shan asked. Li Yuanyu's expression faltered at that, and he quickly added, "At least not in broad daylight."**

**"It's cloudy now," Li Yuanyu blinked innocently.**

**"That's not the issue here." Knowing Li Yuanyu was feigning innocence, Tang Shan had an internal struggle before he finally gave up on pursuing this matter. "Never mind, forget I said anything."**

**"The restaurant is at the other end of the city. Should we call for a carriage?" Li Yuanyu brought up, quickly changing the topic.**



**"A carriage? The kind that almost crashed into me the last time?"**

**"Yes." Li Yuanyu nodded.**

**"I've never been on a carriage before. It's like going back to the eighteenth or nineteenth century." Tang Shan was curious and eager to try it out.**

**"You've been on one before. It's just that you forgot." Li Yuanyu got his mobile phone and proceeded to call for the carriage.**

**"Are carriages the typical mode of transport here? Are there no buses or cars here?" Tang Shan asked again, finding this peculiar and quite interesting at the same time.**

**"Carriages are primarily used. Cars aren't as common. I have a car at a villa near the outskirts nearby. Do you want to take this chance to see it?" Li Yuanyu suggested.**

**"Just to see a car? No, thanks," Tang Shan grinned while he thought to himself, *Li Yuanyu has another villa that's close to the outskirts? It might be worth a look.* He continued, "I'm more interested in the villa."**

**"Then we'll go after breakfast. It's really close to the restaurant, so we can take a stroll."**

**"Okay, you're in charge." Tang Shan had no objections and didn't bother thinking through his word choice.**

Unbeknownst to him, Tang Shan saying 'you're in charge' made Li Yuanyu extremely satisfied. He was positively beaming with happiness, a huge grin apparent on his face.

After a short wait, the carriage arrived.

"Good morning, Mr Li and Mr Tang Shan." The driver removed his cap and bowed. His attire had a historic feel to it, from how it was extremely similar to the way someone from the eighteenth century dressed.

"Good morning."

The driver glanced at their linked hands momentarily and kindly said, "What a sweet couple. You two seem perfect for each other."

Tang Shan was obviously perturbed, but Li Yuanyu grabbed his hand firmly and answered with a smile, "Thank you."

The driver simply accepted his answer as if it was the most natural thing to do.

The two of them got onto the carriage. Tang Shan gazed at the scenery outside, not daring to turn around and look at Li Yuanyu. He didn't retract his hand and left it on the space between them.

The carriage proceeded at a leisurely pace on the road. Tang Shan didn't see anyone on the way.

**"Are there a lot of people in the city?" He couldn't help but ask.**

**"Not really."**

**"Oh... It's just that there are a lot of buildings here, so I thought there were a lot of people living here." He still remembered how the city looked, with new and old buildings built all over the place.**

**"Some of them are empty. It's a small place; emigration is a serious problem here."**

**"I see." So that was the reason. Feeling that the topic seemed to be getting heavy, Tang Shan quickly added, "It's not bad to see all these carriages that give a sense of antiquity. We can focus on this and advertise to the public. Now that we have the internet, everything's very convenient! How about I help set up a website for the city?"**

**"We're not within the service area. Don't even mention the internet, sometimes we have difficulties just making phone calls! Mr Tang Shan, have you lost your memories again?" The driver heard their conversation and chuckled as he spoke.**

**Tang Shan went beet red in embarrassment and shut his mouth, unwilling to continue to find out more. It was much too embarrassing!**

**Was there anyone in this city who didn't know he often lost his memories? Gosh, what a joke he was!**

**It took about an hour and a half for the carriage to reach the restaurant. Li Yuanyu got off first and extended a hand to Tang Shan, wanting to help him down.**

**"Thanks, I can get down myself." Tang Shan rejected him, not wanting to be made fun of again.**

**"Let me help you," Li Yuanyu changed his approach. "I want to help you."**

**It's just getting off the carriage. What's there to help with! Tang Shan stepped on the carriage step, not finding it unstable at all. Even then, Li Yuanyu's arm was still out, and Tang Shan had no choice but to give in and hold his hand.**

**Li Yuanyu grinned at that.**

**Tang Shan didn't want to dwell on this and began to look over the restaurant they were going to. Surprisingly, it was a small place. The decorations made it look cozy, and the gentle lighting as well as wooden interior were extremely similar to those in Li Yuanyu's house.**

**At the door, there were decorative ceramic gnomes half the size of a man, just like those in Li Yuanyu's house. The interesting thing was that every one of them looked slightly different.**

**Li Yuanyu opened the door to the restaurant. The moment they entered, the owner walked out from behind the counter to welcome them warmly. It seemed that the owner and Li Yuanyu knew each other well.**

**"Mr Li and Mr Tang Shan! Long time no see!"**

**"Long time no see."**

**Tang Shan simply smiled as he nodded, silent.**

**"The same spot?"**

**"Anywhere's fine."**

**"Sure, sure. Come right this way." She personally brought them to their table, which was up on the third floor.**

**There were no customers on the third floor, as if this place had been reserved just for them. Tang Shan gave Li Yuanyu a look, wondering if this was inconveniencing anyone, but Li Yuanyu seemed to be extremely comfortable in this situation. Tang Shan decided not to make a fuss over it.**

**Li Yuanyu helped him pull his chair aside and invited him to sit. The owner chuckled as she watched from the side. Tang Shan hesitated for a moment, but then sat with a smile as he thanked Li Yuanyu.**

**The owner lighted scented candles for them.**

**It was daytime now, so what was the point of lighting scented candles? There was no need to enhance the atmosphere for two men anyway! Tang Shan wanted to complain about all these little details, but eventually decided to keep it to himself.**

**"The usual?"**

**"Yes, please," Li Yuanyu answered.**

**She nodded, kept the menus and left after some small talk.**

**"Do we come here often?" Tang Shan had a feeling this was so.**

**"Yes. Before you lost your memories, we used to come here three times a week."**

**"Three times? To come here all the way from the other side of town..." He was surprised.**

**"There was a time when we stayed at the villa. It's not far from here, just ten minutes on foot."**

**Right, he'd forgotten about Li Yuanyu's villa.**

**"I'm going to take a look around." Tang Shan left his seat and began to examine the place, trying to see if the decorations would help him remember something. If he used to come here so frequently, he might have some memory of the things here.**

**In the end, it was all in vain. He had no memories of anything here. Tang Shan ended his search and got back to his seat only when the waiter brought their food to the table.**

Li Yuanyu's eyes were on him all this while. When Tang Shan grinned at him. Li Yuanyu would smile even wider in answer, and Tang Shan's heart would skip a beat at the sight of his pretty face. It was even more beautiful than that of a woman's, and the expression on his face was as sweet as honey.

Fine. If he was being honest, his heart fluttered quite a lot.

"Stop staring at me," Tang Shan sighed while he picked up his cutlery.

"Am I making you uncomfortable?"

"Not really," Tang Shan sighed again. "Anyway, stop staring at me. I get self-conscious. Very self-conscious.

"Then I'll have to stare at you more so you'll get used to it!"

What kind of logic was that! He rolled his eyes.

After a simple breakfast, the two of them went downstairs. When Li Yuanyu went to pay the bill, the owner ambushed him and he got caught in more small talk. Meanwhile, Tang Shan escaped to the restroom..

A lot of consideration had been put into the decoration of the restroom. In front of the sink, instead of a mirror, there was a collage of black and white photos that had been arranged such that it formed the shape of a big heart. Tang Shan found this very interesting and moved closer to examine it.

All of them were commemorative photos of customers at the entrance of the restaurant. There was a photo of a little girl in western attire with a teddy bear grinning in front of the camera; there was one of a couple embracing each other while they beamed at the camera; there was one of a built man dressed in his work clothes, scratching his head as though embarrassed... Each and every one of them was touching and full of happiness, causing the corner of Tang Shan's lips to involuntarily turn in a smile.

At a corner of the heart, he found a picture of them. Li Yuanyu and he were maintaining a safe distance, as if they were just friends. He was conversing with Li Yuanyu, who seemed to know the shutter was being released and had laughed heartily while facing the camera. This gave the photo an air of mischief.

Tang Shan got closer, wanting to scrutinize the photo. In the end, he couldn't control himself and picked up the collage to study it closely.

"Tang Shan, are you done yet? We're leaving!" Li Yuanyu called from the entrance of the washroom.

Tang Shan couldn't help but jump in surprise and he dropped the collage. This was largely due to the weak grip he had on the frame. It bounced, and some of the pictures separated.

This was bad! He'd actually damaged the decorations in this place!

"Tang Shan?"

"I'm almost done. I'm coming!" Tang Shan quickly responded in case Li



Yuanyu decided to come in. Luckily for him, the floor of the washroom was carpeted and he hadn't made too much noise.

He turned to the back of the photograph, wanting to know if there was still tape there, but his movements suddenly stopped.

At the back, there was a single word written with the crayon used to order their meal.

'Leave.'

It was his handwriting.

On the back of a photograph he took with Li Yuanyu, he had written the word 'leave'.

Tang Shan felt like someone had dunked a bucket of cold water over his head and he shivered with the sudden chills running down his body. It seemed like he wouldn't be moving anytime soon.

The seconds ticked by.

"Tang Shan, are you alright? Do you feel sick? Do you want me to get you a doctor?" Li Yuanyu had waited for such a long time that he began to worry, threatening to enter.

Tang Shan forced himself to move, breathing deeply while he fixed the frame and put it back in its previous spot.

Right at that moment, Li Yuanyu pushed the door and entered the restroom. Seeing Tang Shan looking so pale, he asked anxiously, "Are you alright?"

"I'm great."

"Do you need to see a doctor?" He was still worried.

"No. I'm really alright." Tang Shan couldn't reject the hand that Li Yuanyu offered. His palm was wet with sweat, and he could only hope that Li Yuanyu would mistake it for the water from washing his hands.

They left the restaurant. Tang Shan was preoccupied by the thoughts in his head, and he remained silent besides responding to Li Yuanyu's small talk from time to time. Noticing this, Li Yuanyu thought Tang Shan might be feeling sick and had initially wanted to call for a carriage to bring them back, but Tang Shan stopped him.

They finally got to the villa and Li Yuanyu immediately called for a doctor. He then brought Tang Shan into the living room. Once they entered, Tang Shan was immediately drawn to the large oil painting on the wall. It was a painting of Li Yuanyu and him, in which he was sitting on an elegant chair, with Li Yuanyu standing ramrod straight beside him, an arm resting on the back of the chair.

The people in the painting gave off the impression of the male and female owners of the villa.

The chills that this painting gave him were much more intense than when

he'd seen the word on the back of the photograph. Tang Shan hugged himself as he sank to the floor, giving a roar of despair.

"Tang Shan? Tang Shan! What's wrong?!" Li Yuanyu quickly rushed forward and pulled him close, trying to calm him down.

However, Tang Shan had no control over the sounds coming out of his mouth, his hysteria continuing till he collapsed from the lack of oxygen.

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Tang Shan had a nightmare. He couldn't remember what it was about, but he knew there was water involved. He immediately got up, only to find himself in the master bedroom of Li Yuanyu's villa. He was lying on a large bed for two. Li Yuanyu was currently speaking to a stranger, and he turned to focus on them.

"How do you feel?" Having noticed Tang Shan's gaze on him, he quickly moved to the side of the bed, looking extremely worried.

Tang Shan looked past Li Yuanyu at the stranger, feeling a sense of uneasiness.

The man gave him a small smile and left the room after giving Li Yuanyu some instructions.

"He's...?"

"Our family doctor. After you fainted, I got worried and asked him to come over and examine you." Li Yuanyu reached out and wiped away the sweat on his face. "The doctor said you're emotionally unstable and can't be agitated. I've already taken down the painting, so it's fine now. You don't have to look at

it anymore."

Having said that, he leaned down and kissed Tang Shan's cheek.

"You've been sweating a lot. Do you want a shower?" Li Yuanyu helped him up, a single arm around him.

Tang Shan was still not in the best state yet, and upon hearing the question, agreed dumbly.

It wasn't until Li Yuanyu followed him into the bathroom that Tang Shan came back to his senses, noticed the situation they were in and glared at him.

Li Yuanyu innocently put down the hand which had been in the middle of taking off his shirt. "Can't we shower together?"

*Of course not!* Tang Shan glared at him vehemently, using his gaze to deter Li Yuanyu.

Tang Shan didn't stay in the bathroom for too long. He merely took a quick shower and changed into clean clothes before coming out. He had a strange feeling that this bathroom was quite narrow, but the bathroom in his memories was much larger and wider.

"Is there another bathroom?" Tang Shan asked Li Yuanyu, who was waiting outside.

"Yes, but the water leaks. It's still being fixed. Did you remember anything?"

**Li Yuanyu seemed to be a little nervous.**

**Tang Shan wanted to explain, but he suddenly noticed the locket below Li Yuanyu's collarbone in his shirt that lay half-open.**

**"Hey! That's my locket! Give it back! " He shouted in surprise while pointing to the locket.**

**Li Yuanyu could tell the situation wasn't good and quickly buttoned up his shirt, thus hiding the locket from sight.**

**"You've been wearing that all this while?" Tang Shan was so furious that he grabbed him by the collar, as if looking for a fight.**

**"Tang Shan, calm down. The doctor said that you shouldn't get agitated." Li Yuanyu sounded extremely calm, trying his best to pacify him.**

**"Damn it, who cares what he says! Return it to me!" Tang Shan had no idea why he was getting so emotional. While he knew he had to maintain his calm, he just couldn't do it.**

**"Ugh, my head..." He was in so much pain that he was on the verge of tears and his grip on Li Yuanyu loosened, though he still didn't let go.**

**"Tang Shan..." Li Yuanyu was extremely worried.**

**"Don't call my name!"**

**Li Yuanyu couldn't bear seeing him in this state and made a compromise in the end, handing the locket to him.**

**Tang Shan held the locket and took a few deep breaths to calm himself down. He never knew he was such an emotionally driven person.**

**"Do you feel better now?" Li Yuanyu was still as gentle as ever, and that made Tang Shan feel he'd been overly excessive in his efforts to regain the locket.**

**He didn't know why, but just seconds before, he felt so much dislike for Li Yuanyu that it bordered on hatred.**

**"I'm sorry," Tang Shan apologised and let him go, reflecting on his actions. "I shouldn't have shouted at you or wrinkled your shirt. I'm so sorry."**

**"It's fine. Do you feel better though?"**

**"Yes. I'm sorry." Tang Shan kept apologising.**

**Li Yuanyu gave a bitter laugh. "Stop apologising. The locket was originally yours anyway. I was in the wrong for taking it for myself."**

**Tang Shan looked down at the locket in his hands.**

**"I have my reasons for not returning it to you. I was afraid I'd lose you." Li Yuanyu explained. He watched Tang Shan staring at the locket with a sullen face.**

**Tang Shan became suspicious from what he'd heard. Why would returning him his locket result in Li Yuanyu losing him? Didn't Li Yuanyu give this to him?**

**"I'm begging you, please don't open it." Li Yuanyu sighed.**

**Why? It was just a picture of Li Yuanyu. Why wasn't he allowed to open it?**

**Tang Shan ignored him and forced the locket open in front of Li Yuanyu. Unexpectedly, it was much easier than it had been previously and didn't take long to open. However, there was no photograph inside. It was empty.**

**"It's empty?" Tang Shan was extremely surprised and looked up at the man. "Didn't you say there was a photo of you inside?"**

**Wait, the reason why the locket had become so easy to open must be because someone had already opened it before! He suddenly came to this realisation.**

**"Li Yuanyu?"**

**Li Yuanyu's expression turned miserable. He didn't bother trying to hide the fact that he'd lied.**

**"Li Yuanyu!"**

**Tang Shan threw the locket at Li Yuanyu's face in his anger, the open locket falling between them.**

**All of a sudden, a wave of pain pulsed in his head and Tang Shan collapsed, hand clutching his head.**

**Li Yuanyu didn't react and merely watched as he fell.**

**Tang Shan's gaze never left the locket. He had a vision within his mind of a black-haired beauty with her back to him. She ambled forward towards the balcony and turned back, looking innocent and carefree as she laughed merrily.**

**He'd managed to take a picture of this particular scene and had kept it in the locket. He'd been treasuring it all this time.**

**Ahh, he remembered.**

**The black-haired beauty wasn't Li Yuanyu, but his fiancée, Jenny!**

**He had a fiancée called Jenny!**

**"Tang Shan?" Li Yuanyu put his hand on Tang Shan's arm, trying to pull him up.**

**Li Yuanyu wasn't his lover!**

**The throbbing pain in Tang Shan's head caused him to tear up. Having lost all strength in his body, he let Li Yuanyu move him as he pleased.**



His memories continued flowing and images kept replaying in his mind like a montage.

—

Li Yuanyu snatches the locket around his neck and stomps on it furiously. The locket thus becomes deformed.

He rushes forward to retrieve it and prevent Li Yuanyu from destroying it, but Li Yuanyu kicks him aside.

Li Yuanyu yells at him with his face contorted in jealousy and anger, "You can't go back anymore!"

Li Yuanyu grabs him, makes him get on the carriage, and then stops at the endless, pitch-black tunnel. He throws the locket into its depths before his very eyes.

He hears the distinct, metallic sound of the locket falling.

Li Yuanyu is so cruel, and Tang Shan can only despair at that.

# 7

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[City of Endless Rain](#) ch 7

## Chapter 7

His full name was Joseph Tang Shan. He'd entered the city because of a car accident.

As he had stayed up the previous night, he'd fallen asleep while behind the wheel, causing him to crash into a tree by the road. From what he heard from the police officer who found him, his car had been completely wrecked. There weren't any skid marks on the road, meaning the force of the impact must have been extremely large.

It was a miracle he was even alive.

He had no memory of that at all. All he knew was he'd been wrapped up very thoroughly and seemed to be in a dire state, what with all the casts and gauze. Unexpectedly enough, he didn't feel much pain.

An officer came by his hospital room to take a statement, and he immediately thought to himself, *Shit, what if they take my license?* He needed to travel between other cities frequently for work and really needed his car.

He narrated the story to the officer, constantly trying to show how remorseful he was.

"Stop it, don't waste your breath."

Seeing the officer ignore his efforts, Tang Shan had no choice but to give up.

Just when he'd given up, Li Yuanyu appeared. He pushed the door to his hospital room open, bringing in a strangely appealing smell. Li Yuanyu wore his hair short, giving off a fresh look when combined with his androgynous face.

Tang Shan thought this person was better looking than the celebrities on television, but was a bit too effeminate for a man.

The officer stood at attention and saluted to the man, "Mr Li!"

"Are you the newcomer?" Li Yuanyu introduced himself with a kind smile and extended a hand, "Hello, I'm Li Yuanyu, the manager of this town."

Li Yuanyu's voice was deeper than he had expected. Tang Shan had envisioned his voice to match with his appearance, sounding high-pitched and girly. However, the reality was that his voice was a rich baritone.

Oh dear. What sort of trouble was he in for the big guy to be visiting him? Maybe he had crashed into a tree that was historically significant?

"H-hello, I-I'm Joseph Tang Shan. Nice to meet you." Tang Shan shook his hand politely, only to quickly retract his hand at the man's cold touch. He kept silent for a while from shock and unease. "I caused this town trouble, didn't I?"

"No, you didn't. Rest assured. I'm just here to check out the situation. This town is quite remote and we don't get visitors often!" Li Yuanyu sported a very friendly smile.

"Thank you," Tang Shan said, but he sensed that things weren't that simple.

"Also, I came to help arrange your living quarters after leaving the hospital," Li Yuanyu added, "I just asked the doctor. He said you can check out in two days."

This took Tang Shan by surprise. Wow, he thought, this manager sure is nice. He's the epitome of someone with nothing better to do.

"No, thanks," Tang Shan refused, "I can tell my family to come pick me up. It only takes half a day to get here from home. Could you just let me use the phone for a second?"

He then scanned the room, not finding his personal belongings. "Where are

**my belongings?” he asked the officer.**

**“How should I know?” The officer’s attitude was bad, the complete opposite of his attitude towards Li Yuanyu.**

**Tang Shan was taken back by the fact that all his belongings were gone. Now that he thought about it, it was strange that the officer had not asked for his identification earlier. He had assumed the officer had seen it already.**

**“Get a hold of your temper, Jake. Be nice,” Li Yuanyu mediated, “We’re too far out. Telecommunication is bad. There aren’t many phone calls with the outside and not many get through anyway. You probably won’t have luck there.”**

**“What about the internet? I could send an email.”**

**“The phone lines don’t work, let alone the internet!” Jake retorted, and mumbled “what an idiot.”**

**“What about mail? There’s got to be a post office.”**

**“Yes, but the mailman does not come often,” Li Yuanyu clarified. “It will likely take a month. Let me arrange lodgings for you for the time being.”**

**“But I don’t have money on me. I can’t pay the medical bill, let alone rent.” Tang Shan said worriedly.**

**“Why don’t you stay with me?” Li Yuanyu suggested.**

**“Mr Li?!” Jake cried out in disbelief.**

**Even Tang Shan was surprised by it.**

**“Just let him stay in the cells at the station,” Jake said through clenched teeth.**

**“No, Jake. He is my guest.” Li Yuanyu then gave a formal invitation, “Tang Shan, would you like to stay at my home?”**

**It appeared he had no alternatives since obviously didn’t want to have to live in a prison cell. He thanked this considerate manager from the bottom of his heart. “That would be great. Thank you so much.”**

**“Loosen up. Let’s drop the honorifics,” Li Yuanyu said with a smile.**

**What a nice person!**

**Tang Shan was touched that there was warmth and kindness left in this hideous world.**

**The morning he checked out, Li Yuanyu came to his room to pick him up. He even helped him with the hospital bill. Tang Shan swore he would return the money once he returned home.**

**To which Li Yuanyu only smiled.**

Since then, he started living at Li Yuanyu's villa. Besides he and Li Yuanyu, there was a cute housekeeper, Marie. She was one year younger than Tang Shan and an outgoing optimist. Tang Shan would banter with her to pass the time when the owner of the villa was away.

Tang Shan had sent a letter home the day he checked out of the hospital. After counting the days, he realised it had been nearly two weeks. He didn't know if it had reached its destination yet, but no replies came, so he could do nothing but wait.

He had been extremely lazy recently, eating good food and sleeping plenty. Li Yuanyu took him out whenever he had time to. Tang Shan was starting to feel like a nuisance.

Li Yuanyu was easy to be with but this just couldn't go on.

One day, Tang Shan went out to send another letter home. On the way back, it began to rain hard and he was soaked to the bones by the pelting drops. When he thought about it, he realised it had not once been sunny since he arrived. Hopefully, it wasn't the sign of a deadly storm, because that would make his return even more difficult.

The umbrella he borrowed had broken in the wind along the way, and he looked absolutely awful now. When he finally made it back to the villa, however, he found it surrounded by police officers.

"Excuse me, what's going on here?" he asked a female officer.

All of them looked over at his question, and when they saw that it was him, their faces turned into ones of shock.

What's the matter? Tang Shan was confused.

"Go in!" Jake pushed his colleague out of the way of the door and dragged Tang Shan into the house.

The moment he entered, he heard Marie's cry. "My goodness, you're back, Mr Tang Shan! Hurry! The master is changing in his bedroom!"

Marie urged him and took Jake's place as she led Tang Shan into the house.

"What happened? Shouldn't I stay out if Mr Li is changing?"

"Just go in, alright! I can't explain it properly right now." Marie complained. "Where in the world did you go, sir? Why didn't you tell us beforehand? You gave me a fright!"

"I left a note, though. Didn't you see?" Tang Shan argued for himself. He did notify them before leaving.

"I did!" Speaking of the note, it made Marie even angrier. "The only thing you wrote was 'I'm going out.' You didn't say where you were going or if you were coming back! If you'd just left like that and never came back, I would get fired for sure!"

"No way. Mr Li is such a nice man."



**“Oh, you have no idea, sir!” She was extremely frustrated seeing the man’s easy attitude. She let out a deep breath to regain her composure and gave him a hard look. She warned him against smiling before knocking the door.**

**“Come in.”**

**Receiving permission, Marie pushed it open after taking a deep breath for courage.**

**There was a forbidding tension in the room. It was so that even Tang Shan felt the man’s anger.**

**Li Yuanyu had his back to the door while buttoning his shirt in front of a mirror.**

**Tang Shan could see the man’s oddly pale skin from his spot by the door. He gulped without knowing it, not because of lust but because of the intense aura Li Yuanyu was giving off.**

**“Master, Mr Tang Shan has returned.”**

**Tang Shan could see the falter in Li Yuanyu’s movement before he snapped around. When the man’s eyes caught sight of him, they stayed glued on him.**

**He saw a hint of surprise in the man’s eyes. He raised his hand and gave an awkward smile. “Hello.”**

**Li Yuanyu stared at him as though to confirm his existence, until Tang Shan shivered. His clothes were still wet.**

**Finally, Li Yuanyu spoke, “Why are you soaking wet?”**

**“It started raining really hard on the way back.”**

**“Go wash up and get a change of clothes.” Li Yuanyu returned to his gentle self and the tension in the room dissipated.**

**Tang Shan wanted to leave but his eyes stayed locked with Li Yuanyu’s, unable to part.**

**Oh no. He felt as though something was gripping his heart, leaving him gasping for air.**

**Jenny. Jenny. Jenny – he recited his fiancée’s name, as though doing so could ensure his affections for her would never change.**

**Ever since those strange thoughts started to appear, he warned himself and stayed away from Li Yuanyu for a while. Coincidentally, the weather was ugly and it rained buckets for several days.**

**“If I may, Mr Tang Shan, could you please stop this? It’s really hard for me to go out for groceries with the weather like this.” Marie was complaining again because of the rain.**

**“I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, Marie. I have nothing to do with the**

rain. Stop blaming me for it,” Tang Shan retorted, trying to convey his innocence.

“Oh you! How oblivious! You're so blissfully oblivious!” Marie shouted, pointing at his nose.

This made Tang Shan more confused.

“Believe me, as long as you go out with Master, it will turn sunny! At least cloudy, if not sunny!” Marie proclaimed.

What kind of logic was that? This wasn't some fairytale.

“What are you talking about?” Li Yuanyu came into the kitchen when he heard their voices after coming downstairs.

“Mr Tang Shan was saying he wanted to eat out with you this afternoon,” Marie said first.

Hey! I said no such thing! Tang Shan frowned, but Marie returned a look: Let's bet on it.

“Really?” Li Yuanyu looked to Tang Shan with a smile.

“Uh, yeah.” Tang Shan mustered a reply. He simply couldn't reject the man with a bright expression on his usually gloomy face.

The restaurant was near the villa. The owner was kind and stopped them for a photo before they could leave, saying it was rare that the rain stopped. Tang Shan wanted to turn down the offer but she was so quick that the photo had been taken before he could do anything.

**“Hey!”**

**“It’s fine. Whatever.”**

**“Yeah, for you. You were looking at the camera but I wasn’t ready,” Tang Shan complained. Of course, he wasn’t so inconsiderate as to demand for the owner to destroy it.**

**Li Yuanyu was in a good mood even after the meal on their way home.**

**“Are you feeling better?”**

**“Yes. Because of you.”**

**“Me?” Tang Shan was puzzled.**

**“I noticed you’ve been avoiding me for the past few days and thought maybe you grew to dislike me. But now it’s all good,” he explained with a smile.**

**But he really was avoiding him. Tang Shan managed to smile back.**

**“Tang Shan,” Li Yuanyu called his name out of nowhere and stopped walking.**

The man in question halted as well and looked at him. Li Yuanyu's eyes twinkled brightly like stars, mesmerizing him.

"Joseph – can I call you Joseph?"

Joseph!

Tang Shan broke away from those eyes and returned to his senses.

"Joseph?" Li Yuanyu studied him with worry.

Tang Shan spoke hesitantly, "My fiancée calls me that."

Li Yuanyu's smile fell and he kept quiet the entire way. Tang Shan, on the other hand, began reminiscing and did not say a word.

They stayed silent for the rest of the trip.

At one point, it started raining again.

Marie opened the door for them. Li Yuanyu went up to his own room without a word. Then, she noticed that Tang Shan appeared extra unnerved today.

"What happened to you two? Wasn't everything going well?" Marie quickly brought a towel and threw it into his hands before ushering him into the

bathroom. "Come on. Wash up and get changed."

Tang Shan stood in the bathroom, still a bit shaken. The reflection in the mirror was proof of his current state.

Jenny. He wondered how she was doing. Was she worried that he still had not returned?

He didn't know how he tidied up. He stumbled out the bathroom and into the kitchen.

Marie showed him to his seat as soon as she saw him, and handed him a hot cup of tea to warm up with.

"I think you should stop mentioning your fiancée in front of Master," Marie couldn't help but scold.

Why?

"See, it's raining again for no reason."

What did that have to do with anything? It was just a natural phenomenon.

"Mr Tang Shan, haven't you sensed that Master really likes you?" she probed. She didn't think someone could be this dense.

He knew, slowly but surely. He just kept persuading himself that they were

only close friends.

**“Don’t make it any harder for my master, please, sir.”**

Tang Shan sighed as he toyed with his treasured necklace. He opened the locket to look at the photo within – his beloved Jenny.

**“I have a lover. My fiancée, Jenny, is waiting for me at home.” He didn’t want to lie. “I admit that I find him attractive but I think I can hold myself back properly. But before that, there’s a more pressing matter. We’re both men!”**

**“Are you saying you discriminate against homosexuals, Mr Tang Shan?” Marie protested.**

**“No, no! I don’t, but that doesn’t mean I am homosexual myself. I’m not,” he explained.**

**“Pity,” Marie expressed her regret. “Master would make the perfect lover.”**

**“I know he would. Unfortunately, I’m not gay and will not like him.”**

**But even so...**

Tang Shan kept gazing at Jenny’s picture as though he might just forget her if he didn’t.

**He realised he wasn’t as certain as he said he was.**

Tang Shan was the one who initiated their first kiss because Li Yuanyu had appeared so miserable and seductive. He did feel guilty, more or less, for betraying his fiancée, but as the occurrences multiplied, his relationship with Li Yuanyu became a given. It became so natural that it seemed weird to not be together.

As he let Li Yuanyu in, he lied to himself, telling himself that this relationship was born from lust, and that this was what they called a French mistake – a heterosexual man having sex with another man but feeling regret afterwards.

It was easy to indulge in what was Li Yuanyu. As Marie said, he was an affectionate and gentle lover. Whether it was the lingering kisses or the occasional but considerate sweet-nothings, Tang Shan couldn't help but grow an addiction for this man and want to open himself up to him.

One day, when he woke up to Li Yuanyu planting kisses on his back and saying good morning, he couldn't hold back the contradiction that he felt. He wept.

Li Yuanyu kept comforting him and held him in his embrace.

He had felt love in his core while in the arms of a man.

"Isn't that good?" Marie asked indifferently after hearing Tang Shan's troubles.

"Not at all." Tang Shan was playing with the locket but now he was too scared to open it. "I have a fiancée."



**“A fiancée means you’re not married yet,” Marie continued, unconcerned, “Worst comes to worst, you break up when you go home. I mean, getting a divorce isn’t even a big deal anymore.”**

**“Marie!”**

**“It’s true, though!”**

**Marie stared confidently back at Tang Shan, eager to win.**

**“What are you chatting about?” Li Yuanyu entered the dining room and stopped beside Tang Shan. He greeted him good morning with a smooch on the cheek.**

**“Stop it.” Tang Shan tried to stop the intimate action – Marie was still there.**

**“I didn’t see anything. I didn’t see anything!” Marie covered her eyes and fled.**

**Li Yuanyu chuckled and kissed Tang Shan again. Then he took a seat next to him and placed a hand on the back of Tang Shan’s chair.**

**“What were you discussing behind my back? Some secret that you’re hiding from me? Hmm?” Li Yuanyu teased in his ear.**

**“No. Stop talking like this.” Tang Shan pushed Li Yuanyu’s head away.**

**“Why? I don’t want to!” Li Yuanyu nuzzled his neck.**

**Tang Shan couldn’t stop giggling.**

**Those were probably their happiest times together.**

**One day, Tang Shan woke up to find it to be well past two o’clock. He didn’t think he could sleep that long since Marie would wake him up for lunch no matter how much he wanted to stay in bed. However, she didn’t come today.**

**“Marie?” Tang Shan called as he searched for her downstairs.**

**But he didn’t see a trace of the woman. When he got to the kitchen, he was surprised to find Li Yuanyu.**

**“Morning. How did you sleep?” Li Yuanyu was putting something together at the stove and tilted his head to greet Tang Shan before going back to work.**

**“What are you doing?” Tang Shan approached. “Where’s Marie?”**

**Li Yuanyu picked a piece of chicken from the pot for him to try.**

**“Where’s Marie?” Tang Shan repeated clumsily while chewing the chicken.**

**“She left town.”**

**“Huh? Why? I never heard her talking about it. Was it this morning?”**

**“Yeah. This morning.”**

**“Why didn’t you wake me? She took good care of me. I should have at least seen her off.”**

**“Don’t worry. I took care of her.”**

**Tang Shan still looked troubled.**

**“What’s up? What are you thinking about?” Seeing him this close, Li Yuanyu planted a kiss of adoration on his head.**

**“I’m wondering why she’s the one to leave when I’m the one who needs to leave. Huh.”**

**Hearing this, Li Yuanyu sighed. “You’re still thinking about leaving...”**

**Shit. This was a sensitive topic. Tang Shan took a step back.**

**“No.” Li Yuanyu grabbed him.**

**Tang Shan read fear in his eyes but it disappeared in the blink of an eye.**

**“Don’t leave me.”**

**Tang Shan couldn't say a word because he knew he had to leave.**

**"Shall we eat?"**

**In the end, Li Yuanyu changed the subject. He served the food on plates and sat Tang Shan down at the table to eat.**

**Tang Shan quieted down at the table. He didn't realise that the topic of Marie had been glossed over, and only felt guilt towards Li Yuanyu.**

**"Since Marie is no longer here, why don't we move to a smaller house? The villa's too big. I don't want you feeling afraid at night."**

**"Me, afraid? What do you take me for? A child? If it's the cleaning you don't want to do, I can give you a hand with it."**

**This made Li Yuanyu chuckle and lightened the entire atmosphere.**

**Then, saying goodbye to the villa with the huge bathroom, they moved to a smaller house on the other side of town. Jake helped out, too, on moving day. Jake respected Li Yuanyu greatly but was not fond of Tang Shan. He was annoyed by Tang Shan's existence and would even protest when Tang Shan called the man he respected, Yuanyu.**

**"How can you call him Yuanyu! I don't even call him that! Why can you?"**

**"Do you want to call him Yuanyu?"**

**“l...l...”**

**Jake’s face flushed pink. The innocent and adorable reaction made Tang Shan want to tease this seemingly proper, but secretly quirky policeman some more.**

**“Gosh, I can’t talk with the likes of you!” Jake said angrily, but left in a hurry. He pretended to be busy moving Li Yuanyu’s easel up the stairs.**

**Tang Shan stood in his spot, cackling to his heart’s content.**

**Tang Shan sent several letters after they moved to the new house. He lost count of time, only knowing to wait for the reply as days went by. He often had the feeling he was going to stay here permanently.**

**He became restless from time to time and Li Yuanyu still refused to tell him the way out. The weather worsened and there was nothing he could do. Perhaps he was the problem. He had unconsciously chosen to be passive.**

**Li Yuanyu taught him to fold stars to fight the boredom, saying that he could have one wish granted if he folded a thousand stars, which was what Marie did.**

**Goddamn. When did Marie fold a thousand stars? How had he never come across it?**

**Marie...**

He wondered how she was doing now.

Tang Shan brought this up with Li Yuanyu and the latter said, “Why don’t you send her a letter?”

“A letter? Another letter?! How long is that going to take? I’m starting to think that none of my letters have reached home!”

This was his first fight with Li Yuanyu. The grievance and uneasiness from waiting that had accumulated over time exploded in one go. It was not exactly a fight, per se, since he was the only one who was mad. It was a one-sided fight.

Tang Shan could not continue the ugly confrontation. He went to the door and put on his coat. The waterproof coat was a gift from Li Yuanyu.

It was midnight and raining.

“Where are you going? It’s pouring out.” Li Yuanyu became nervous and followed to the door in attempt to stop him.

“I’m taking a walk to clear my head.” Tang Shan flicked up the collar and had the doorknob in his hand when Li Yuanyu spoke.

“I’ll go with you.”

“Don’t. I need to clear my head.” Tang Shan said unkindly. He didn’t want to

be like this but his mouth had a mind of its own.

He heaved a deep sigh, opened the door and stepped into the rain.

ayszhang: Happy New Year! :D Here's to another BL-ful year~

As you can see, I took part in the translation of this chapter. I and Ying agreed to switch for one chapter and here it is! :) We each did about 75% of each other's chapter.

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# 8

Translator: Ying

Editor: ayszhang



[City of Endless Rain](#) ch 8

SURPRISE!

## Chapter 8

As Tang Shan walked past the third intersection, he crossed paths with Jake who was patrolling the area.

"Tang Shan, where are you going this late?" Jake greeted him as he approached. It was extremely unusual that he wasn't making fun of him and instead, actually quickened his footsteps to catch up to him.

Tang Shan intended to reply, but as the wheels in his mind began to turn, he



sighed. "Yuanyu asked you to come, right?"

Jake gave a sheepish laugh and did not deny that statement.

"Can he just stop worrying about me?" Tang Shan was slightly frustrated by Li Yuanyu's efforts.

"Don't flare up at me; tell him yourself." Jake blocked his ears, unwilling to hear Tang Shan's complaints. Instead, he spoke up for Li Yuanyu. "It's not like you don't know how complicated the roads are in this city. A foreigner like you is bound to get lost, and it's not unusual that you might not even be able to find your way back at all!"

Tang Shan, who had gotten a bird's eye view of the city, was definitely aware that Jake wasn't merely trying to scare him. Though he was planning on just strolling along the exterior of the city, he still allowed Jake to come along for his own safety.

The main reason why he had Jake follow him was because having a conversational partner was much better than sulking alone, though there was not much they had in common in the first place.

"So what did you fight over this time?" Jake asked.

"Nothing, really. I just had something I need to sort out."

Jake didn't pursue this any further and the conversation ended.

**They didn't see eye to eye in the first place, though it wasn't to the point that they were enemies. However, they still weren't comfortable enough to have a pleasant conversation.**

**After strolling for around thirty minutes, Tang Shan still didn't look as if he had any plans of stopping any time soon. Jake couldn't help but ask, "Hey, how long are you planning to walk for?"**

**"Till the end of time."**

**Jake spat out a curse.**

**Tang Shan chuckled at that. "I'm joking. I actually want to get to the villa."**

**"But that's at the other end of the town!" Jake cried out in misery.**

**"You don't have to follow me, I won't tell on you to Li Yuanyu."**

**"No! This is my duty! What are you planning to do in the villa? Don't tell me you just want to reminisce there."**

**"Can't I?"**

**Tang Shan's response stunned Jake for a moment, and all he could do was glare at him wordlessly.**

**On the way to the villa, the two of them remained speechless.**

The thing that broke the silence was an explosion a few streets away from them.

"Boom!" Red sparks flew and a large portion of the district was instantly covered by dense, black smoke. The glass in the surrounding residences and shops all shattered from the impact. The sounds of confusion gradually increased in volume, and they could clearly hear people shouting and screaming.

Jake's walkie-talkie bleeped, notifying him that the culprit responsible for the explosion was nearby and requested that he assist in the capture.

"What the hell!" Jake suddenly pointed at Tang Shan. "You! Get back to the house. I need to do my job, and I don't have the time to take care of you!"

"But judging by the distance now, the villa is closer-"

"Then go to the villa! Don't bother me with trivial issues! Leave! Run!" Jake pressed and then rushed towards the site of the crime without looking back.

It really wasn't a situation where Tang Shan could follow the policeman to satisfy his curiosity, and he stared at the direction where Jake disappeared. Not too long later, there was another explosion, and he clapped his hands to his ears. His ears ringing, he finally began dashing in the direction of the villa.

After escaping to the villa, Tang Shan made use of his memories and found the key that was hidden in the bonsai outside. He entered the house and went to the second floor, concerned but confined to the safety of the house. He

looked out from a window, taking note of what was happening within the town.

Soon, a female officer came knocking, and Tang Shan quickly went downstairs and answered the door.

"Mr Tang Shan."

"How's the situation out there?"

"We have it under control, so please don't worry. Mr Li sent me here to inform you that you are to stay in the villa tonight. Mr Tang Shan, I need to emphasize this once more – please don't leave the house tonight!"

Her stern warnings made it seem as if something big was happening.

"It's getting late now. You should get some rest. I still have to meet with the others, so I'll take my leave."

The female officer finished her report and left after bidding him farewell.

Tang Shan returned to the second floor and continued monitoring the situation outside. It was much too far, however, and he couldn't see much. There wasn't a television that could give him live coverage of the incident either, and he was in no mood to sleep yet.

Or at least, that's what he thought. In the end, Tang Shan was exhausted and finally fell asleep by the window wrapped in a blanket.

**"Hahahaha, haha, hahahahahaha-"**

**There seemed to be the constant sound of children's laughter in his dreams.**

**Tang Shan woke up, the sound of laughter still resounding in his ears. No, those giggles really did exist. He climbed up and gazed out of the window, to the sight of a few children dancing excitedly as they headed towards the other end of the town.**

**He turned to look at the wall clock behind him, only to find that it was two in the morning. Why were there children hanging around outside at this time? Furthermore, there had been a huge commotion not long ago; it was far too dangerous!**

**Worried, Tang Shan left the villa and chased after the children.**

**"Hey! You guys! Wait!"**

**He shouted at the top of his lungs, and the children suddenly turned around, their laughter halting.**

**Tang Shan was unnerved by their stares. As he was still a distance away from them and couldn't see the expressions on their face, the atmosphere was terrifying and bizarre at the same time.**

**"You guys-" Tang Shan started.**

One of the children began to chuckle once more, and like a chain reaction, all the children began to laugh along. They ignored him and advanced forward cheerily.

"Hey!" Tang Shan wanted to stop them, but they picked up speed and he had to jog a little to catch up to them. In the end, even he forgot why he wanted them to halt and only mindlessly trailed after them.

The children slowed their footsteps as they approached the square, their presumed target. In front of them were even more children in a circle, all of whom were prancing and grinning cheekily.

Tang Shan got closer and realised that nobody was paying him the slightest attention. He bent down to examine the child who was closest to him, and couldn't help but feel that this face was unexplainably familiar. He racked his brain for any answers – where had he seen that face before?

Ah!

He remembered now. A quick look around at the faces of the children, and he was so stunned that he stumbled onto his behind. He could not believe his own eyes.

These “children” were the ceramic dolls that every family in the town possessed!

"Hahahahahahahahahahahahahahahahaha-"

The dolls gathered in the middle of the square while they filled the area with

**their hearty laughter.**

**It sent chills down his spine.**

**Then abruptly the laughter stopped. A person walked to the middle of the square wearing a black cloak and a hat, seeming to merge with the darkness of the night. It was impossible to tell who it was.**

**Next, the female officer who had greeted him earlier that night appeared. She was holding onto a thick rope, the other end of which was tied around a man's neck. His eyes were covered by a black cloth, and his body was bounded so tightly that it seemed impossible to move. The female officer led him forward and stopped in front of the cloaked man.**

**Another person brought a chair over from the opposite side – Jake. He tried to get the man to sit, but he disobeyed and desperately tried to resist. The female officer punched him until he was dizzy and forced him into the seat. Meanwhile, Jake took the opportunity to tie him down to the chair.**

**The man moaned pitifully.**

**Tang Shan recognised the man who had been captured as one of Marie's suitors who often stalked her while she went out to buy groceries. Occasionally, he'd buy her some flowers, and even though he was a stalker, he'd never gone overboard before. In general, he was still a good man.**

**"Verdict."**

**The man in the black cloak finally spoke. His words were lost in the raging**

wind, and Tang Shan couldn't hear him properly for a moment.

**"You are guilty."**

The wind whisked away the dark clouds, and moonlight streamed down, centering on the criminal. Tang Shan saw white smoke emitting from the man.

**"Marie! Marie! Give Marie back to me!"**

**Ahh!**

Tang Shan had to cover his mouth to prevent any sounds from escaping. The man's body actually began to combust with bluish flames. It was horrifyingly beautiful.

**"You are guilty."**

The judge, in his resolute voice, declared him guilty with no hesitation. All of the witnesses watched on coldly as the man burnt to ashes.

Tang Shan suddenly understood, after observing this event. This man liked Marie enough to wreck the town and had to pay the price – but what had happened to Marie?

He could more or less guess who the judge was. No one else fit the role better.



**Li Yuanyu.**

**But why?**

**"Who's there?!"**

**The judge suddenly discovered him – Li Yuanyu found him – and all eyes landed on him, even the ceramic dolls. They grabbed onto him and pulled him out from the crowd and into the middle of the square.**

**"Tang Shan!" Jake and the female officer simultaneously gasped, looking guilty.**

**He shouldn't be here.**

**Tang Shan didn't look at them and trained his gaze on Li Yuanyu.**

**They were so close, and he was absolutely sure that the judge was Li Yuanyu.**

**Li Yuanyu did not look stunned at being discovered, and instead answered with a firm look.**

**"Tang Shan."**

**"What happened to Marie?"**

**"Tang Shan, come here."**

**Tang Shan stood close to the chair, rooted in the spot as he glared at Li Yuanyu.**

**"What did you do to Marie?"**

**In his agitation, Tang Shan exposed himself under the moonlight. Instantly, he could feel the heat enveloping him. He could see white smoke coming from all over his body. He, too, was going to be burnt to ashes. The fear of death encompassed his body, and he was paralysed.**

**"Tang Shan!"**

**He was suddenly covered in darkness as Li Yuanyu used his cloak to shield him, dragging him away from the moonlight. Tang Shan's emotional and physical state was unable to withstand much more and he soon fainted.**

**That was just the start of his nightmare.**

**It was a living hell.**

**Nobody would tell him what had happened to Marie, but he could guess the answer. It definitely wasn't the first time that a trial like this was held. There was too much happening in this town that couldn't be comprehended with common sense.**

**Ceramic dolls that came to life, people who spontaneously combusted, a town with no way of leaving, the rain that seemed to change depending on Li**

**Yuanyu's mood, and the rareness of sun... None of this could be explained with science.**

**He couldn't stay in this godforsaken place any longer. It was terrifying!**

**"I want to go home."**

**This wasn't where he belonged. He wanted to return home.**

**"I'm begging you. Let me go."**

**It was scary here. Li Yuanyu was scary.**

**Tang Shan cried silently, the state of his body and mind quickly deteriorating.**

**But Li Yuanyu still loved him, and no matter how many tantrums Tang Shan threw, he'd still stay by his side and take care of him.**

**But that wasn't what he wanted at all. He didn't want to deal with Li Yuanyu's love for him; all he felt was fear.**

**Li Yuanyu could tolerate Tang Shan's indifference, fear and anger, but he couldn't watch him get weaker day by day.**

**"I can't lose you."**

**Li Yuanyu said that one day.**

**He really wanted to laugh, wanted to ridicule Li Yuanyu's silly words. The man had lost him long ago, but his body was so weak that he could not retort nor scorn those words.**

**Li Yuanyu carried him to the bathtub in the villa, putting him down gently. The tub of water warmed his body.**

**Li Yuanyu started telling him stories about the past when they were in love, but he was in no mood to listen and closed his eyes. Then Li Yuanyu suddenly fell silent. Tang Shan's eyes flickered open and stared up at him blankly.**

**The man spoke after quite some time, "Tang Shan, I love you."**

**Li Yuanyu cried. He cried his heart out.**

**Tang Shan was equally miserable. He still loved Li Yuanyu, but it was impossible to accept him anymore.**

**Li Yuanyu reached out and rested his hand on Tang Shan's shoulders. In the past, that was a precursor to kissing, but it was completely different this time, different from anything he had experienced – Li Yuanyu pressed him firmly into the water.**

**The pressure on his shoulder, Li Yuanyu's anguish...**

**He now understood the situation. Li Yuanyu was trying to kill him; he couldn't stand him anymore.**

However, Tang Shan did not die, and the next time he woke up, all he remembered was that Marie had left town and they had moved to the smaller house. They were living in the house, and yet he woke up on the large bed in the villa. How had they gotten there? He had no recollection.

Li Yuanyu had prepared a large pot of Borscht for no reason, and Tang Shan felt increasingly confused as he sat at the table with a smirk, "Did you do something bad?"

Li Yuanyu smiled but did not answer.

That was the first time he lost his memory.

Jake would come over occasionally, sometimes staring at him with a complicated expression. He always found it strange and questioned Jake about it, but Jake was unwilling to give an honest answer.

There was once he'd let something slip though.

"Your existence is constantly destroying my image of Li Yuanyu."

Tang Shan thought his words were referring to their overly affectionate relationship and grinned obliviously, "He *is* quite clingy."

The illusion of a perfect, peaceful life continued for a period of time, until Tang Shan regained his memories of everything that had happened. At that point, his terror and anger towards Li Yuanyu was enough to swallow him

whole.

Tang Shan's attitude towards Li Yuanyu was driving the man crazy, and he gradually became hysterical and easily irritable.

He disposed of Tang Shan's locket, had someone paint a portrait of Tang Shan and him even though he was unwilling to, and treated him like a sex slave, constantly tormenting him no matter how much he resisted and begged.

"I love you, Tang Shan."

Tang Shan would not accept it no matter how much Li Yuanyu told him he loved him. Li Yuanyu had gone insane and no longer was the person he had fallen in love with.

On the nights that Li Yuanyu did not rape him, the man would read out loud the novel that he enjoyed the most. It was the book that Tang Shan had once ridiculed before for being an overly mushy romance novel.

*The long journey wore him out, but he refused to give up. She was his final destination.*

Li Yuanyu read the last sentence, letting the words hang in silence. He flashed a gentle smile at Tang Shan. "I won't give up either, Tang Shan."

What an idiot. Tang Shan choked out a scoff, but he was definitely aware of how serious Li Yuanyu was.

At this point, the novel that Li Yuanyu loved the most was no different than a horror story to him.

Whenever Li Yuanyu couldn't be around to take care of him, he'd get Jake to help. He was like a prisoner, having the freedom to move around the town but unable to really leave.

"If you could be a little better to him, even just a little tiny bit, it'd be better for both of you." Jake nagged at him tirelessly. It had been raining non-stop all this while, and a lot of areas were beginning to flood. He couldn't bear to watch on anymore.

"I can't do it."

"Why can't you just accept it? Doesn't he treat you well enough?" Having his suggestion rejected, Jake became agitated at Tang Shan for not knowing better.

"How am I supposed to accept you killing people?! In my eyes, you're all murderers!" Tang Shan retorted with a vicious accusation.

Jake was stunned at his words, and by the time he came back to himself, he was already fighting with Tang Shan. In his fury, he lost control of himself and beat Tang Shan till the latter fainted. Only then did he realise what he'd done.

The next time Tang Shan awoke, Jake was no longer by his side. In his place was Li Yuanyu's concerned expression. For a long time after that, he did not see any signs of Jake.

**"Where's Jake?" He couldn't control his curiosity and asked.**

**Li Yuanyu stayed silent.**

**"Did you kill him too?" At the mere thought of that, Tang Shan began to tremble, the terror surging through his body.**

**"Do you really think I'm someone capable of that?"**

**Li Yuanyu's question and his tone of dissatisfaction were all making Tang Shan nervous.**

**"Tang Shan, don't be afraid. I love you."**

**"I don't want this-"**

**Tang Shan knew he was a coward. In his current state, even Li Yuanyu's gentle smile multiplied his fears.**

**"I'm begging you. Let me go."**

**He pleaded repeatedly.**

***Why?***

***Why are you doing this to me?***



Jake wasn't dead. Li Yuanyu had merely taught him a lesson after he injured Tang Shan and was currently recuperating at home. By the next time Jake saw him, he'd lost his memory again.

"Gosh, Jake, you got beat up pretty badly. Did you meet some thug?" Tang Shan was shocked at the bandages all over Jake's body and poked fun at his injuries.

They were friends again.

Tang Shan lost even more memories this time, and he had absolutely no memories of where Marie had gone, or even his lost locket. He had no recollection of how he even came to this town. His memories were all over the place, and he had trouble linking them together.

Jake discovered that every time Tang Shan lost his memories, he'd forget even more things. He had no idea if Li Yuanyu was aware of that, or if that was his intention.

Li Yuanyu was so, so deeply in love with Tang Shan. Even a fool could see that.

During this period of time when Tang Shan suffered amnesia, Li Yuanyu stayed by his side like a thoughtful lover. He was willing to spend an entire day accompanying his lover.

However, as Tang Shan regained his memories time after time, his resistance intensified day by day. In answer, Li Yuanyu gradually became cold

and numb to his antics.

He didn't find it tiresome as he constantly wiped Tang Shan's memories to achieve his goals. No matter what, Li Yuanyu was unwilling to let Tang Shan go, much less let him leave. Not even death was permitted.

Li Yuanyu was a pitiful man, and Tang Shan was cruel.

Just the other day, Jake went to visit them. Usually, he wouldn't drop in if there wasn't anything important, but there was an incident within the town that required the manager's appearance. Coincidentally, the weather was good – only clouds, no rain.

Tang Shan was maintaining his garden outside the hut. The potatoes seemed to have turned bad, probably due to the roots rotting in the overly damp soil. He took notice of Jake and waved at him. "Hey, Jake! You're just in time. Are you free now? Can you pull some weeds for me?"

"I'm only here because there's some trouble in town." Jake looked at the messy, overturned soil. "What are you doing?"

"These potatoes have to be dug up and replanted."

What the hell?

"Where's Li Yuanyu? What's he doing?" Jake questioned. Wasn't there one more person in the house?

Tang Shan tilted his head, a little confused.

"What's wrong?" Jake began to get a little flustered at the attention from Tang Shan and scratched his head while he looked away.

"You called Yuanyu by his full name. It feels a little strange to me. Don't you usually call him Mr Li?" Tang Shan didn't mean anything and laughed as he turned back and continued taking care of his vegetable garden.

Jake glared at his back, unable to speak for a long while.

*You were the one who ruined Li Yuanyu's position in my heart!* He roared soundlessly within.

"Yuanyu is preparing dinner inside. He should be in the kitchen if you're looking for him." While working, Tang Shan guided him without even raising his head, patting the ground and digging up an entire potato plant.

"...Thanks." Jake thanked him uncomfortably and entered the house through the unlocked door. The moment he entered, he could smell the rich aroma that came from brewing soup.

"Tang Shan, come here and taste this for me." Li Yuanyu heard the sound of the door opening and shouted in that direction.

Jake entered the kitchen and saw Li Yuanyu, who was busy working in the kitchen. "It's me."

**"Oh, it's you." Li Yuanyu wasn't all that disappointed either, scooping up a bit of soup and passing it to him. "Try it."**

**Jake took it and reported matters while drinking the soup.**

**Upon hearing all this, Li Yuanyu turned off the gas, put on his suit and prepared to head out.**

**"Where are you going?" Tang Shan, who was outside, was full of questions while he saw them come out.**

**Li Yuanyu came to Tang Shan's side, bent and kissed his face and explained, unwillingly to leave, "There are still some things I need to deal with, so I'm not coming back to eat. I've already prepared dinner, so you can just heat it up later."**

**"Jake will keep you company."**

**Jake stood by the door, staring coldly at their intimate actions.**

**"I don't need anyone to keep me company," Tang Shan glared as if he was being looked down upon.**

**"But I'll worry. There's a storm coming, so finish up here and head back to your room as soon as you can. The vegetable garden can wait for another day. Let Jake help you," Li Yuanyu kissed him again, and then got onto the horse carriage that Jake called for and left the wooden hut.**

Seeing the horse carriage about to disappear into the distance, Jake leant against the frame of the door, exclaiming unhappily, "I am not helping you."

"I thought so too. I never expected you to," Tang Shan continued to work. He had already dug out quite a number of potato 'corpses'.

"You're pretty smart, huh."

"Thank you, I've always been." Tang Shan laughed, hands not resting.

Jake periodically bantered with Tang Shan, standing on the same spot and refusing to help out.

Tang Shan spoke, "Do you want to go in first and help me prepare dinner? Just standing there and bickering with me must be pretty boring, isn't it?"

"You want a guest to help prepare dinner?"

"Why not? Technically speaking, we're both Li Yuanyu's guests."

"Haha, how are you a guest? You're the 'mistress' of Li Yuanyu's home." After saying this, Jake began to guffaw.

"Hey! That's not funny at all!"

All of a sudden, a few lightning bolts streaked across the horizon interjected by the claps of thunder every few seconds. The ear splitting, terrifying noises

**struck fear in his heart.**

**Tang Shan stood up, gazing at the place where the lightning struck.**

**"Tang Shan, get into the house!" Jake urged him.**

**In the next moment, fire burst out in the distance. An explosion occurred at the center of the town.**

**Staring hard at the thick smoke produced by the explosion, Tang Shan did not even blink as he asked, "Jake, where did you say there was an issue at? Where did Li Yuanyu go?"**

**"What do you want? Don't tell me you want to go there. I'm not going to watch you go to your own death in front of my eyes." Jake stepped forward and held onto Tang Shan, just in case he really ran out there.**

**Tang Shan suddenly looked a little vacant, "Jake, I remember."**

**"Wha-What do you remember?" Jake was stunned, uneasiness apparent in his gaze.**

**"There was also a huge explosion like this that day. You-You burnt the man who was sweet on. Marie – What happened to Marie? What right does Li Yuanyu have to pass judgment on anyone? What did Li Yuanyu do to me? Why is he treating me this way?"**

**Tang Shan stared wide-eyed at Jake, terrified and disbelieving.**

Jake really wished he could evade the line of questioning, because he was one of the main actors who had a role in the tragedy that was Tang Shan's life. He found out the truth, then lost his memories time and time and again. The same play was reenacted over and over, continuously increasing Tang Shan's sense of hopelessness.

Faced with this, Jake chose to close his eyes.

Ying: Apologies for the long wait, I will finish translating this so please be patient...

ayszhang: This release will replace the Brother release this week!

[Chapter 7](#)

Chapter 9